

BIRDS AT LECKFORD ABBAS. By FRANCES Pitt

AUG 11 1942

COUNTRY LIFE

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PROPERTY LINEAGE & AUCTION PAGE 102.

COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XCII. No. 2374.

JULY 17, 1942

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PRICE ONLY £13,500

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On outskirts of Chesham and 10 minutes' walk from Station. About 25 miles from London. Marylebone or Baker Street in 50 minutes.

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OCCUPYING A NICE HIGH POSITION 400 FT.
UP FACING S.E., OVERLOOKING VALLEY AND
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It contains : Hall, cloakroom with basin and w.c., dining room (15 ft. 10 ins. by 15 ft. 10 ins., exclusive of bay), drawing room (20 ft. by 14 ft. 6 ins., exclusive of bay), morning room, complete domestic offices, etc. On first floor are 5 bedrooms, dressing, bathroom. On second floor are 3 bedrooms and box-room.



VIEW OF HOUSE



VIEW FROM HOUSE

COMPANY'S ELECTRIC LIGHT, GAS, WATER AND MAIN DRAINAGE. "IDEAL" BOILER. CHARMING INEXPENSIVE GARDEN
WITH TENNIS LAWN, ALSO KITCHEN GARDEN.

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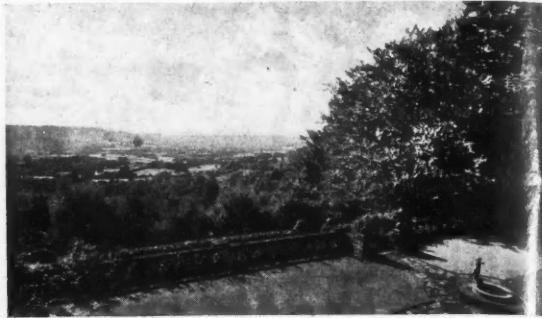
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THIS ATTRACTIVE MODERN GEORGIAN-STYLE RESIDENCE
IN GROUNDS OF OVER
HALF AN ACRE

(Within 300 yards of the Beach and about 2 miles west of Bognor Regis (S.R.) Station.)
To be offered for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION (unless previously disposed of)
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The accommodation comprises :

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ALL PLANNED AND FITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MODERN STANDARDS.
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1 hour Paddington. 5 minutes' walk station.

THIS CHARMING RESIDENCE
IN EXCELLENT ORDER.



9 bedrooms, 3 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 3-4 reception. Main water and electricity. Central heating. Wash basins (h. & c.) in bedrooms. Garages.

ATTRACTIVE
GROUNDS,

KITCHEN GARDEN, PADDOCK. BACKWATER WITH BOATHOUSE.

6½ ACRES

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4 MILES OF BEACONSFIELD

£4,500 MIGHT BE TAKEN

This Well-appointed Modernised CHARACTERISTIC HOUSE
in a quiet position, near bus service, and
½ mile from station.

Hall, cloakroom, 3 reception, fine dance room or billiard room, 6 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Company's electric light and water. Central heating. Splendid cottage. Garage for 3/4 car.

Delightful garden. Just under

3 ACRES FREEHOLD

EARLY POSSESSION.

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(Est. 1884.) EXETER.

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(For Sale, To Let, Wanted, etc.)
See "CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES,"
PAGE 102

ESTATE

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE HOUSE

62/64, BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1

OFFICES

'Phone : Kens. 1490.
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EAST GRINSTEAD c.2

FIRST CLASS DAIRY FARM WITH ABOUT 150 ACRES
INCLUDING A LOVELY SUSSEX FARMHOUSE

ADDED TO AND MODERNISED FOR THE OCCUPATION OF A GENTLEMAN FARMER

3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Main water and electricity.

EXCELLENT FARMERY WITH COW-HOUSES FOR 24 COWS (CERTIFIED GRADE A). BARN. 2 MODERN COTTAGES (EACH WITH BATHROOM). GARAGE FOR 2 CARS.

PRICE FREEHOLD £10,000

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Amidst undulating country. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from village, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from station, and only 20 miles by road to London.



GEORGIAN-STYLE HOUSE

IN A BEAUTIFUL POSITION 500 FT. ABOVE SEA LEVEL ON SOUTHERN SLOPE OF HILL. 4 reception, 11 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maids' sitting room. Main water, drainage and electricity. Central heating. Garage for 2. Useful outbuildings. Well-kept grounds of about

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HOUSE READILY LENDS ITSELF TO ADAPTION FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, OR COULD EASILY BE DIVIDED FOR THE OCCUPATION OF TWO FAMILIES.

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PICTURESQUE HOUSE

In first-class order throughout and very well fitted.

Large hall, 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maids' sitting room. Main services. Central heating. Constant hot water. Garage for 2, with flat of 3 bedrooms, sitting room and bathroom. Gardener's lodge, with bath. Workshop.

DELIGHTFUL GARDENS AND GROUNDS

OF ABOUT 1 ACRE WITH RIVER FRONTAGE AND OWN LANDING STAGE.

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500 ft. above sea level. Daily access of London. Walking distance from Station.

UNIQUE LABOUR-SAVING RESIDENCE



FREEHOLD £4,500

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FINE POSITION. VIEWS OVER FARM c.3

CLOSE SURREY DOWNS. Convenient to station, about half hour Town.



A RESIDENCE OF INFINITE CHARM AND CHARACTER IN SECLUDED GROUNDS

Lounge hall, 3 reception, 9 bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms. Electric light and modern conveniences. Lodge. 2 garages. Other useful outbuildings.

TEAK STAIRCASE AND WOODWORK THROUGHOUT.

THE GARDENS ARE WELL TIMBERED, TENNIS AND OTHER LAWNS, KITCHEN GARDEN, FRUIT TREES, TWO PADDocks, VALUABLE FRONTAGE, IN ALL ABOUT

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EAST BERKS (Reading about 11 miles) c.3

Occupying a delightful and healthy situation near the Hampshire Border.

ATTRACTIVE RESIDENCE

DESIGNED ON 2 FLOORS.

3 reception, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Modern drainage. Co.'s electric light, gas and water.

Central heating.

Garage Picturesque cottage. Stabling.

Delightful gardens. Tennis lawn. Kitchen garden. Orchard. Capital pastureland. Total area extending to nearly

17 ACRES



VERY REASONABLE PRICE FREEHOLD

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SUSSEX c.4

4 miles from Bexhill, commanding glorious views extending to Beachy Head.

GENUINE XVIIth CENTURY RESIDENCE

with entrance and inner halls, 2 good reception, 7 bed and dressing rooms, bathroom and usual offices.

Electric light. Good water and drainage. OUTSIDE STUDIO. DOUBLE GARAGE AND OTHER USEFUL BUILDINGS.

Lawn, kitchen garden, orchard etc.

In all about 6 ACRES



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COMMANDING SOME OF THE FINEST PANORAMIC VIEWS IN THE COUNTY. HUNTING WITH THE BLACKMORE VALE AND MISS GUEST'S HOUNDS.
TO BE SOLD

A CHOICE SMALL FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL ESTATE WITH ATTRACTIVE STONE-BUILT HOUSE



35 ACRES

VIEW FROM RESIDENCE

Full particulars may be obtained of Fox & Sons, Land Agents, Bournemouth, who have inspected and can thoroughly recommend the Property.

With Possession, September, 1942.

DEVONSHIRE

2 miles from Buckfastleigh. 4½ miles from Totnes.

EXCELLENT DAIRY FARM

WITH GOOD HOUSE RECENTLY BROUGHT UP TO DATE.

Ample Buildings.

85 ACRES

INCLUDING 25 ACRES ARABLE.

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In delightful rural country on the fringe of the New Forest.

ATTRACTIVE THATCHED BUNGALOW RESIDENCE

CONTAINING 4 BEDROOMS, BATHROOM, OAK-BEAMED DINING AND SITTING ROOMS, KITCHEN.

DOUBLE GARAGE, STARLING, MAIN WATER, ELECTRICITY AND POWER.

HOT AND COLD WATER IN EACH BEDROOM. MATURED GARDEN WITH FRUIT TREES, TWO FIELDS. THE WHOLE EXTENDING TO ABOUT 3 ACRES

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1 mile from an interesting old Priory Town. 6½ miles from Bournemouth.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD A CHARMING SMALL RESIDENCE

IN PERFECT CONDITION THROUGHOUT.

3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 sitting rooms, good cupboard accommodation, kitchen and scullery.

ALL MAIN SERVICES. GARAGE.

VERY ATTRACTIVE AND WELL-KEPT GARDEN.

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IN A PRETTY HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE BETWEEN FORDINGBRIDGE AND RINGWOOD

Occupying a delightful secluded position away from main road traffic. Near good bus service.



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(11 BRANCH OFFICES)

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recently the subject of considerable expense and now in perfect condition throughout and possessing all modern conveniences.

The accommodation comprises:

4 BEDROOMS

(2 with wash basins)

BATHROOM.

LOUNGE. DINING ROOM.
(Both with oak-beamed ceilings and brick fireplaces.)

STUDY.
KITCHEN AND OFFICES.
"Aga" cooker.
Companig's electric light and water.
Oak staircase of Saxon design.

GARAGE.

3 loose boxes. Outbuildings.

THE GARDENS AND GROUNDS

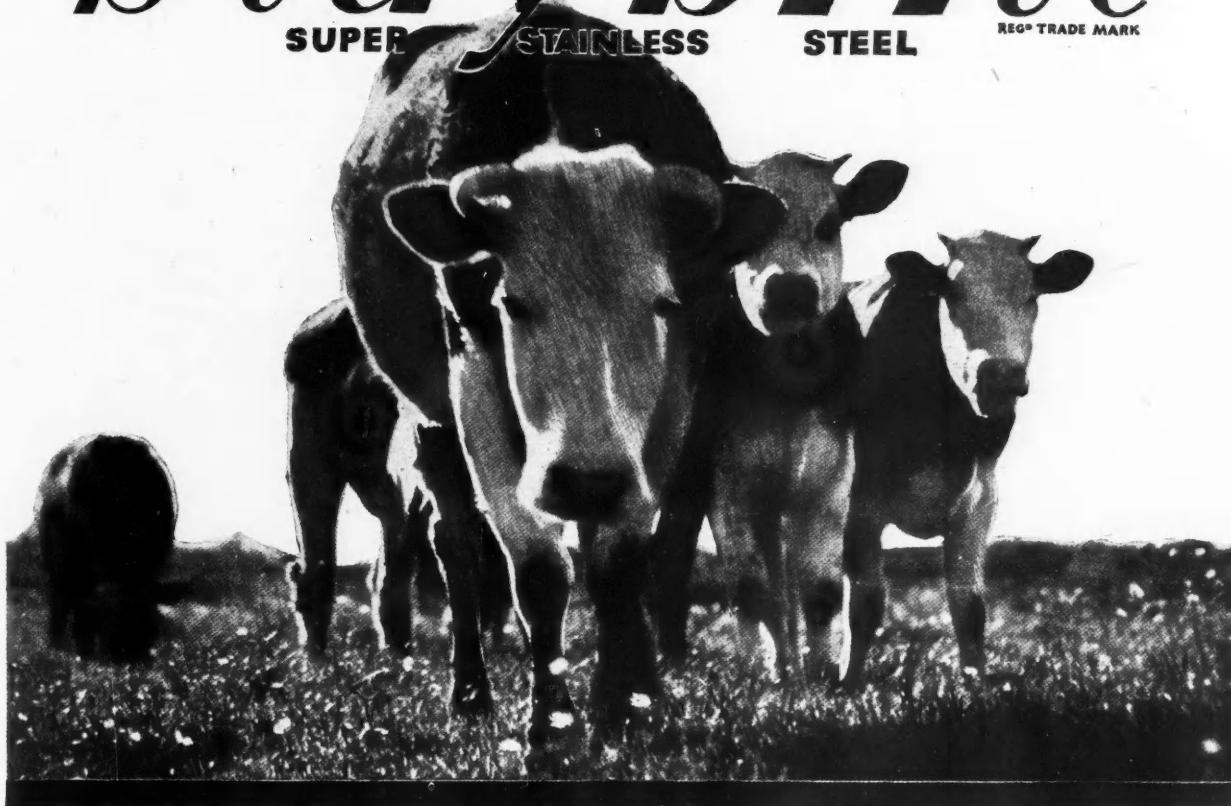
are in good order, and include orchard, kitchen garden, pleasure gardens, with flower beds and rockeries, large paddock. The whole extending to an area of about

3 ACRES

PRICE £3,250 FREEHOLD

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SUPER STAINLESS STEEL
REG TRADE MARK

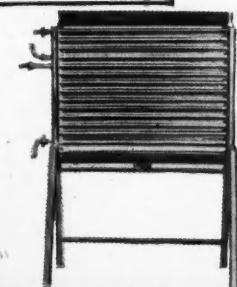


IDEAL METAL FOR DAIRY WORK

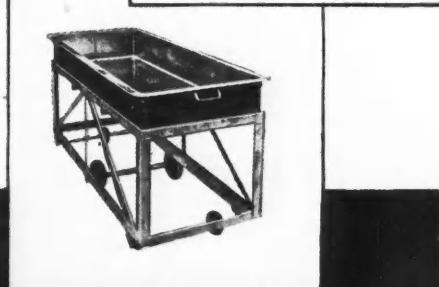
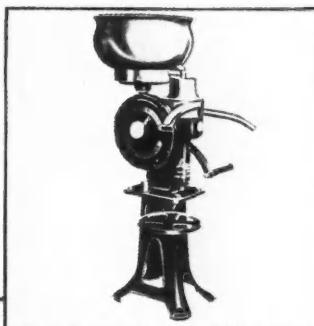
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It would be almost impossible to enumerate all the applications of "Staybrite" Steel for Country House, Farm, Dairy and Estate. Suffice it to say that the material is supplied in the form of Sheets and Plates, Castings, Forgings, Strip, Tube, Angles and Wire, and any articles made in these forms can equally well be made in "Staybrite" Steel.

Brilliant in appearance, labour-saving in use and outstandingly hygienic, there is no metal which enters so fully into the daily life of all sections of the community.



We are steelmakers and produce the steels from which these and other goods are fabricated. We ourselves do not manufacture the finished articles, but will gladly give the address of approved manufacturers.



Owing to the large demand we are at present greatly restricted as regards the purposes for which this steel can be supplied.

FIRTH-VICKERS STAINLESS STEELS LTD.

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IN YOUR 1-lb & 2-lb JAM JARS
with the wonderful
SNAP
PATENT VACUUM
CLOSURES

SIMPLE • QUICK • CHEAP

Supplied in two sizes, NO. I for 2-lb. jars and NO. 1A for 1-lb. jars complete with labels and instructions. Get a supply-to-day and enjoy Summer fruits in Winter without points coupons. **NO SUGAR NEEDED!** Awarded the Certificate of "Good House-keeping" Institute.

2½ plus 8d. purchase tax for bottling 12 jars.

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(Dept. 118)
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3d. each
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Eclipse Blades (now made only in the popular slotted pattern) are scarcer than usual, but persistence in seeking them is rewarded with gratifying keenness and comfort in shaving.

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JAMES NEILL & CO. (SHEFFIELD) LTD.



LICE on CATTLE & PIGS

"A well-known Farmer says: My pigs were infested. I dusted them with Keating's—repeated the operation after 10 days and never saw another louse."

KEATING'S KILLS ALL INSECTS.
Cartons : 4d. and 1/-.



YOU MUST

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SILAGE

— your winter lifebuoy

Every drop of milk your farm can produce will be vitally needed next winter. Shipping space must be saved and feeding-stuffs will be shorter. You must make silage to feed your dairy cows next winter. It's simple, easy and cheap.

FIRST QUALITY SILAGE — made with molasses from young grass or aftermath from hay—is a cake substitute. Each acre of good pasture yields about 3 tons silage per cut—more if top-dressed. 3 tons silage replaces $\frac{1}{2}$ ton balanced dairy cake. Fed with hay, this will supply all food requirements of a 2-gallon cow for 6 winter months.

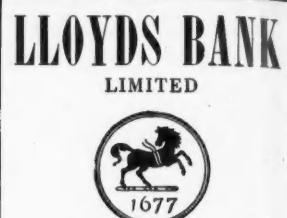
DO THESE THINGS NOW

- Top-dress, as soon as hay is off, with Sulphate of Ammonia (1- $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per acre) to get a good aftermath.
- Attend the nearest silage demonstration. Ask your County Committee for particulars.
- Order your molasses at once, and get a silo, or the materials to make one, **NOW**. You can also make silage in pit or clamp.

Send for free leaflet, "SILAGE—HOW TO MAKE AND FEED IT," to Ministry of Agriculture, Hotel Lindum, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs.

Are your cows yet on the panel?
Sign up under the New Veterinary Control Scheme. It will help you a lot. Call in your Vet. at the first sign of trouble in your herd.

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES



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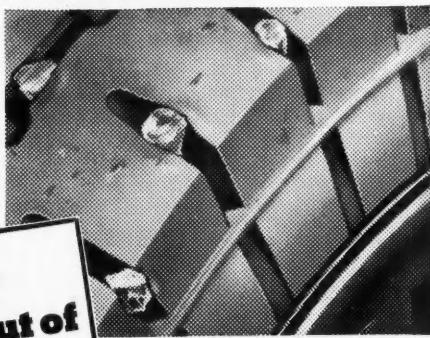
THE ONLY
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ALL GARDEN INSECTS.
SAFEGUARDS
ALL FOOD CROPS.
PREVENTS WASTE.

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MANUFACTURED BY
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**Flick the
stones out of
your treads**

JUST A matter of a minute or two, a question really of remembering to do it. But remember this: one small piece of glass (and there's still plenty about) can eat its way through a tread in no time. Which are you more willing to give up—a few moments of your time now and then, or your car? For, if once you lose your tyres you've lost your car

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Change running position of tyres every 2,000 miles—and don't forget your spare.

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5 Avoid hitting the kerb.

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6 Remove stones and glass from the treads.

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P.8

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The illustration shows one of our small utility buildings. We still have a limited number of small superstructures in stock, such as garages (as illustrated), playrooms and emergency buildings which come within the limits defined by the Defence Regulations. We are able to quote for farm buildings, silos, and other work necessary to aid the war effort. May we send you further particulars?

W.H.COLT SON & CO. LTD
BETHERSDEN, ASHFORD, KENT



Aspiration

'Home-keeping youths have ever homely wits' . . . Raleigh quickly learned the truth of it.

Early we find him burning his rapier mind in thrust and parry with Shakespeare, Bacon, rare Ben Jonson, and the greatest of his age . . .

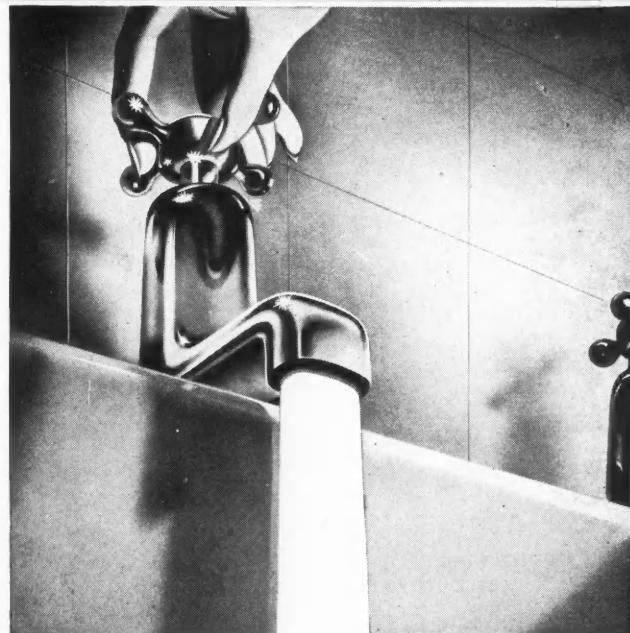
Raleigh Cycles are rationed. Register your order with your dealer, but try to carry on with your existing machine and leave the new bicycles for war workers.

RALEIGH
THE ALL-STEEL BICYCLE

THE RALEIGH CYCLE CO. LTD., LENTON, NOTTINGHAM



RN56A



A THOUSAND, ten thousand times the tap is turned and every time there is water, dependable as to-morrow's daylight. If it were not so, what a tanglewood tale of confusion would follow in the home. . . . A million, ten million motors are started up on civil, military, national business. Imagine the brake on a nation-at-war if AC plugs could not be trusted as they are trusted to do their work faithfully every time!

AC-SPHINX
SPARKING PLUGS



The English Home

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Rising costs and shortage of material make the purchase of furniture of pre-war quality and beauty a truly wise investment.

HARRODS GALLERIES
HARRODS LTD LONDON SW

COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCII. No. 2374

JULY 17, 1942



Harlip

MISS GILLIAN SMITH

Miss Gillian Smith, who is eighteen this year, is the elder daughter of the Honourable and the Hon. Mrs. Randal Vivian Smith and a grand-daughter of Lord Bicester

COUNTRY LIFE

EDITORIAL OFFICES :
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Telephone: Temple Bar 7351

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The Editor reminds correspondents that communications requiring a reply must be accompanied by the requisite stamps. MSS. will not be returned unless this condition is complied with.

Postal rates on this issue: Inland 2d. Canada 1½d.
Elsewhere abroad 2d.

The fact that goods made of raw materials in short supply owing to war conditions are advertised in COUNTRY LIFE should not be taken as an indication that they are necessarily available for export.

FOOD SUPPLIES

HERE is significance in Mr. Hudson's words "We shall be very lucky, having regard to shipping, if we get through the next two years of war with only putting rye in our bread." Within the last few days also Lord Woolton has reproached himself for taking a too rosy view of the country's food supplies. It would indeed be helpful if Ministers took the public more into their confidence in these matters so that everyone, from the 5,000-acre farmer to the backyarder and consumer, could realise how necessary it is to get maximum food production and save waste. Mere mention of heavy shipping losses off the North American coast does not strike home, and generalities about British agriculture's effort are not stimulating reading. We are allowed to know that the output of wheat, barley and other cereals in Britain now exceeds by 50 per cent. that of the last years of peace-time, the potato acreage exceeds by 70 per cent. that of pre-war years, and all the green vegetables consumed in Britain are grown here, though consumption has increased 30 per cent. since the war. Is there any good reason why the public should not be told the full facts about the country's food supply and prospects?

Unless people have some inside knowledge of the position they are naturally resentful of such changes as the cut in the feeding-stuffs allowance for domestic hens. This affects at least a million households who had come to rely on a pen of pullets for a fairly constant supply of eggs off the ration. But thanks to the higher extraction for the loaf, 85 per cent. of the wheat now going into flour, and the lack of maize imports, there is nothing like enough grain and grain products to go round on the generous old scale. Commercial producers of eggs and pigs have for some time had to practise the most severe economy in order to continue in business, and many have felt that the backyarders, daily growing in numbers, were being allowed to draw too heavily on the pool of feeding-stuffs. Now it is to be rations for one hen for each consumer in the household. Most people if they are wise will make it a pullet rather than a hen and somehow the great majority of backyard flocks will be maintained, although reduced in size. Somehow the birds will be found sustaining food scraps to supplement the precious balancer meal allowed on the meagre official ration.

Rye is not a crop we know much about in this country. A few thousand acres were grown before the war, mainly on very light land too poor to carry a full crop of wheat, oats or barley.

Now no doubt we shall see more rye grown on some of the poverty-stricken clays as well as the sands, and it will do no one any harm to eat rye products in Continental fashion. Potatoes and barley are perhaps more likely than rye to find their way into our loaf. It is indeed surprising that more use has not already been made of potato flour instead of allowing some thousands of tons of sound potatoes to be sold at a cheap rate for stock feeding. As the war goes on we have to learn new ways of improvising so that everyone, civilian as well as soldier, is kept fighting fit.

COKE OF NORFOLK

IT is just a century since Billy Coke, who gave his name to the familiar hat, was laid to rest in the family vault at Tittleshall. His reputation as one of the first and foremost of the "Improvers," as the Squire *par excellence* of his day, as Member for Norfolk—with one short break—in successive Parliaments from 1776, when he succeeded to Holkham, until he retired with a peerage at the time of Queen Victoria's accession, needs no elaboration. He was a founder of British agriculture and one of those "Commons Men"—he was long Father of the House—to whom our Parliament owes so much. Nothing could be more characteristic of him than the portrait by Gainsborough—in broad-brimmed hat, shooting-jacket and long boots—which shows him as he was when he presented to George III Norfolk's petition urging that the independence of the American colonies should be acknowledged. The portrait hangs at Holkham, and it is with Holkham, partridges, sheep-shearings, tenants' junketings and high farming generally that his name is chiefly associated to-day. But it would be a mistake to assume, as many do, that he was the builder of Holkham, or that, until he succeeded to the property, his ties with the Cokes of Holkham were very close. The romantic story of how a remarkably good-looking young Guardsman named Roberts eloped with an equally good-looking Miss Coke from a town house in Soho has often been told. "Coke of Norfolk" was Roberts's grandson, and between the elopement and his succession to Holkham the house had been designed and built and the estate laid out by his great-uncle, the last peer of the earlier creation. The present family hold a record for longevity. When the late Lord Leicester died recently three generations alone had endured from 1752 to 1941.

KENTISH FLOWERS

A PATCH of downland on the Kentish chalk
Where the musk orchis grew;
And in the valley fields across the track
Flowered the butterfly.
June after June I visited the spot.

To-day a gaping crater scars the slope,
The musk is there no more.
The grass below is ploughland, grey and bare.
A little less perhaps,
Such tiny victims of the wheels of war.

But they will come again, these Kentish flowers,
In summer beauty with the healing turf.
Rise to new life, as will one sunlit day
Those men of Kent who died
In Canterbury's night of tragic flame.

GODFREY THOMAS.

UTILITY IN THE HOME

IT is encouraging that the President of the Board of Trade holds out hopes of the coming restrictions on furniture and household goods being linked with better quality in some lines, and that a committee has been appointed to advise on good design and sound construction. It is nearly ten years since the Exhibition of Industrial Art in Relation to the Home was organised by COUNTRY LIFE. At that period, still overshadowed by "the slump," a need for economy recommended a certain austerity, and it was shown that simplicity is no enemy of good design; often, indeed, begets it. Mr. Dalton's announcement suggests that forethought, along the lines proposed by the Gorrell Report on Industrial Design, may now be forthcoming, as

it has been with such good results in the housing schemes sponsored by the Ministry of Supply and illustrated on pages 125 and 126 of this issue. Designers will have to find some substitute materials. But besides Mr. Dalton's measures for control of production, there is to be discerned in his policy a masterly and subtle device for limiting, if not eliminating, demand. The principal buyers of new furniture and household equipment are the prospective or newly married. Mr. Dalton was "glad to say that the stocks of engagement rings were large enough to see us through for some years to come"; but he said nothing about wedding rings!

THE LADY WITH THE LAMP

THE presentation last Friday by the Duke of Norfolk of a cheque for £100,000 to Lord Iliffe, Chairman of the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St. John Fund, brings the contribution from the farmers of England and Wales up to a million sterling. This is a remarkable achievement, for it exceeds the sum raised by the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund during the whole period of the last war, and everything suggests that the generosity of those who have been subscribing to the Red Cross Agriculture Fund is by no means exhausted. The presentation ceremony took place at the foot of Florence Nightingale's Statue in Waterloo Place, and the Farmers' Club, which not long ago opened its new house, is to keep in the board-room a replica of the lamp which made that lady famous.

"A. D."

A PART from his striking appearance Sir Daniel Hall was a man entirely *sui generis*, and a man completely after the farmer's own heart. He never lost the tang which his Lancashire upbringing gave him and never ceased to give the impression, even in the most sedate of London clubs, that he was still striding over the furrow, up hill and down dale. From the early academic days when he rowed in the Balliol eight and took a First in chemistry, he busied himself with the education of the farmer and with the application of scientific principles and of the results of modern research to every one of the endless processes of agriculture. At a time like this, when successful war-time food production is clearly seen to depend on applied knowledge just as much as on industry, we may well be thankful for the enlightenment spread, and the enthusiasm generated, by "A. D." and others like him. Wye College is almost unthinkable without his pioneering energy, and few, if any, others could have taken over successfully at Rothamsted the slowly rusting inheritance of Gilbert and Lawes. He had the disadvantage of being much ahead of his time, and much of his zeal and knowledge had to be devoted to the conversion to sound ideas of those who held the purse-strings. He got his way and became the moving spirit of the Development Commission.

SIREN IN EXCELSIS

THE siren, or, as Mr. Churchill once unkindly called her, the Banshee, is undeniably useful, but she can hardly be said to mingle the useful with the sweet, even though the "All Clear" note has sometimes sounded very gratefully in our ears. On the whole, those are perhaps to be envied who can sleep through her song and only hear about it at breakfast next morning. It may safely be prophesied that there will be none such in New York, where a siren on a really grand scale has been devised. She is to perch "high in the stainless eminence of air" on the top of the seventy storeys of the Rockefeller Centre. She will weigh three tons and, as she revolves on her base eight times a minute, will proclaim her alert by what is described as a "warbling bellow." Well may she be termed a super-siren. She is to have nine sisters like to her, and it seems certain that when they all join in wailing the sleepiest head in the furthest confines of Greater New York will not be able to deny that he has been warned. It is a nightmare even to imagine it. As Bottom remarked, "the ear of man hath not seen what my dream was." Let us hope on all accounts that so tremendous a concert may never be necessary.

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES . . .

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

(**N**)E of the drawbacks to the slow-flowing chalk stream is the vast amount of weed which, owing to the lime content of the water, riots after the first hot days of June. In one short week a stretch of open river becomes a veritable herbaceous border of ranunculus, coltsfoot and wild celery, through which the stream meanders in its clear rivulets.

Fishing at these times becomes a most difficult and aggravating business, but on the other hand there lie in these narrow runnels between the weed banks those big and highly educated trout which, under normal conditions, appear to have eyes in the tops of their heads that enable them to detect the glint of gut in the air. When the weed is at its highest and thickest these fish feed confidently, poking up black snouts at regular intervals as the flies come down. If the angler can manage to drop a nicely cocked sedge or olive into the 3in. wide runnel without a drag occurring, a "take" is practically a certainty, but it cuts both ways as, during the next stage of the proceedings, it is three to one on the trout, for when a 2lb. fish is skull-hauled across a flower-starred lawn of coltsfoot the odds are that either the hold breaks, or the 4x gut point. There is, however, no alternative method, for if the trout is allowed to burrow into the jungle beneath the surface he is gone for ever.

In the interests of the farmer and the drainage of the land the weed must be cut at the latter end of June, or at the beginning of July, when it begins to hold back the flow of the stream, and this means for the angler those hopeless days when vast islands of vegetation, suggestive of the Sargasso Sea at its worst, float past during all the hours of daylight, and well into the hallowed period set aside for the night rise. The other evening, while idly watching tons and tons of weed drift over the best runs on its way to the sea, I wondered if it would not be possible in these days, when apparently there are no waste products—not even nettles—for our chemists to discover a use to which this very lush growth could be put: some form of cattle food prepared on the silage system, pulp for paper or cardboard, or a base for an artificial manure?

* * *

THE Sargasso Sea in these days of steam and motor ships never figures in the news, presumably because modern vessels, in the interests of their propellers and patent logs, avoid this sluggish stretch of water with its masses of floating weeds. In the days of sail, however, it lay directly in the track of ships taking advantage of the north-east trade wind, and there was nothing for it but to sail through the centre of it.

The Sargasso Sea is a currentless and almost windless back-wash of the Atlantic, skirted by the Gulf Stream to the north and the Guinea Current to the east, and, as the result, not only vast accumulations of seaweed, but wreckage and derelict ships as well drift into it and remain there, revolving on a large circuit until they disintegrate. One may see precisely the same thing on a smaller scale in the back-wash of any chalk-stream weir, where a bank of floating weed containing bottles, tins and other trash swirls slowly round and round on the spot throughout the summer months until an autumn flood sweeps the whole offence into the sea.

Wonderful tales of derelict ships sighted in Sargasso Sea were told in the days of sail,



J. A. Brimble

"BETWEEN ENGLISH EARTH AND SKY": WENDENS AMBO, ESSEX

and when I passed through it years ago I was thrilled at the prospect of seeing, possibly, a Nelson frigate which an old seaman told me he had boarded many years previously.

"Her sails were hanging in tatters from her yards," he said to me one evening in the dog watch when good stories are told. "The crew lay as skeletons by the guns, and on her quarter-deck was her captain with a cocked hat on his skull. Last entry in her log 1796, and she'd been drifting in the weed of the Sargasso Sea ever since."

As it happened I was disappointed, for all I saw in the Sargasso Sea were islands and continents of weed and in it bottles, barrels, packing-cases and all the rubbish of the waterways, but no derelict ship or captain who refused to take his hat off to Death!

* * *

SOME of the best and most active brains in our Home Guard are endeavouring to detect the true spirit of economy, or even a hint of it, in the latest orders concerning the consumption of petrol in private cars used by the owner for Home Guard duties only. Previously petrol coupons were issued by the local Terri-

torial Association in accordance with the mileage run during the month, but the new regulation states that, in order to effect the greatest economy, coupons will in future be issued only to those cars whose minimum mileage on duty works out at 2,000 per annum, or 166 miles per month. The order, like so many others, suggests that real economy is not encouraged in the Government service.

During the last war, when orders were issued constantly encouraging all ranks to salvage materials and munitions, I came across a forsaken and forgotten camp in the desert with a certain amount of tentage, many boxes of ammunition, Very lights and other oddments of the military calling. I placed a guard on it, reported it to Brigade, and with an unctuous feeling of righteousness waited for the pat on the back which, in my innocence, I expected. Judging from the various stern and admonitory letters asking pertinent questions which I received I am still uncertain whether Higher Command regarded me merely as an interfering busybody, or as a person found in possession of stolen Government property. The correspondence lasted six months before the matter was cleared up, and the concluding letter hinting at a reprimand left me with the uncomfortable feeling that I had not emerged from the unhappy episode with any credit, and was in fact lucky to have escaped a court-martial.

* * *

AT dusk one evening this June—dusk being about one hour before midnight—I came across a very young thrush, hopping about in the most rat-infested corner of the garden where his expectations of life, as the assurance companies have it, might be estimated at about 15 minutes at the most. As he was unable to fly and there were no signs of his parents, I took him in, though I have a rooted objection to being saddled with other people's offspring.

He was fed, possibly over-fed, to which he had no objection, on worms that are hard to find in dry weather, bread and milk, and a portion of calf's head (unrationed). The following morning we put him, still calling and gaping for food, in a small wire enclosure on the lawn, and here his mother discovered him. It was lucky we were not expecting a show of gratitude as the lady let herself go in a most vituperative manner—presumably about the shocking neglect of her child, the disgusting state he was in, the unsuitable food he had been eating—telling her mate he really ought to do something about it.

The whole scene vaguely reminded me of an occurrence recently when a fond mother visited her only son of eight years of age after a month of his first term at his preparatory school, and it proves that thrush and human mothers have much in common.



Many admirers of Major Jarvis's *Countryman's Notes* have lately asked us to publish his photograph. Here it is, taken just before he relinquished his office as Governor of the Sinai Peninsula in 1936. He now lives in Hampshire.

A GARDEN IN KENYA

An account of the making of a garden out of the virgin jungle in the Kenya highlands, with a review of some of the plants which flourish under the climatic conditions

By H. B. SHARPE

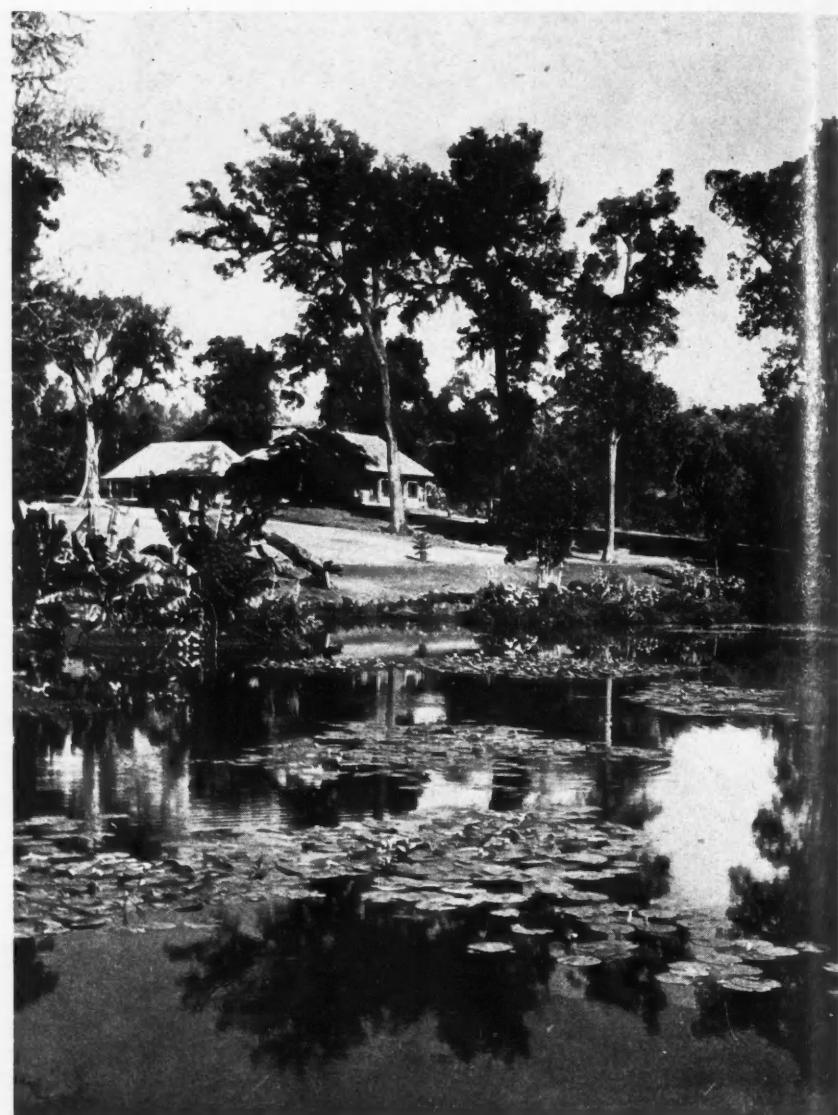
KENYA is the gardener's paradise. Some kind of a garden can be made in every part of it, from the tropical coast, through all the varying levels to the cool highlands where alpines flourish and to the steaming hot country of the great lakes of Africa, and finally to the deserts of the north, where weird succulents grow naturally. One gets results almost at once.

Having spent twenty-five years of my life being moved from pillar to post, I have made all kinds of gardens. But the one I describe here is, I hope, my final effort.

Three years ago the site of the garden was dense tangled jungle, with here and there a huge cedar or podocarpus tree towering above the bush, which was so thick that one had to walk on top of it or crawl underneath it. The land sloped gently down into a valley, where there was an oozing swamp of bushes, rushes, ferns, and thorns. There was no water to be seen, but there were tiny little hidden trickles and springs. And the whole place, six miles from the nearest European habitation, was the haunt of elephant, rhinoceros, and giant forest pig. My first road into this dank place was made by enlarging a game path.

In the first place, I began by cleaning out the swamps, digging out the rich swamp soil, and turned them into pools for water lilies, wild birds, and to obtain the reflections and shadows of flowers and trees and clouds without which no garden is perfect. My natives cleared the dense bush and fenced in some ten acres with a withy fence. The fence is very necessary to keep out pig, bushbuck, and prying antelope, which all quickly develop exotic tastes for roses, carnations, and all kinds of garden plants. I let the natives take off one crop of maize, except where I planned and planted my permanent borders. Everything was planted as much as possible in colour schemes, and the grass for the lawns was put in between the growing native crops, so that no time was lost.

The house went up and enclosed a little rose garden, which was one of my first efforts. The outer walls of the house were made of cedar logs and it is roofed with cedar bark shingles, so that it fits perfectly into the surroundings. There are neither creepers on the house nor flowers at the foot of its walls; it rises naked from the lawns which stretch slightly upwards behind it and gently downwards to the pools in the foreground and at the side. Beyond these come more flowers, green grass and trees, all carefully placed to provide an attractive setting and to afford protection from all the winds that blow, the hot breezes by day from the far northern deserts towards Abyssinia, and



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE GARDEN

Across the lily-surfaced pool is the bungalow in its setting of lawn and podocarpus trees



(Left) FUCHSIAS AND CANNAS PROVIDE A RIOT OF COLOUR ON THE LAWNS

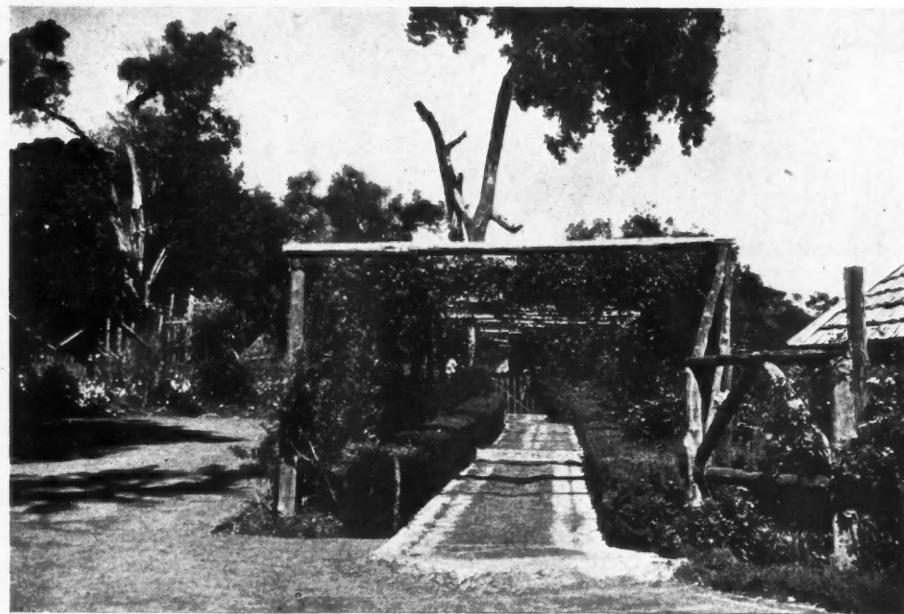
Reaching seven or eight feet high and in all shades of yellow and red, the cannas fill the garden with brilliant colour for months on end

the cold winds by night from the snows of Mount Kenya.

The altitude is 7,400ft. above sea level, and, as the place is cool and moist, many plants which thrive at higher altitudes grow well. It seems easier to state what will not grow than to give a list of plants that succeed. Peonies, strangely enough, refuse to thrive. They come up and die off, and continue doing that. If one could only coax them to flower and seed, something might be done from the seeds. Rhododendrons, too, do not like Kenya. They grow rather miserably in a few places, but I am trying small plants raised from seed received from the French Riviera. Neither are heaths common, though there are several local species. Erica baccans from South Africa is thriving, but several others have failed.

Lilies are also very trying and, in the majority of cases, ungrateful for the kindest treatment. A few, however, are better tempered, and repay one for the little trouble involved to make them comfortable. The species I find more difficult are *LL. auratum*, *testaceum*, *Szovitzianum*, *crocum*, *dauricum*, *lanuginosum*, *Martagon*, *umbellatum*, and *Thunbergianum*. They lead one to expect great things by sending up lovely shoots which grow away vigorously, but then, for no accountable reason, begin to lose way, turn yellow, and sometimes die off completely. If they don't do that they produce some lovely flowers on mouldy stems, or they do the thing properly and disappear entirely.

Among the more accommodating species I must put first and foremost *Lilium philippinense* in its several strains. These all do well, growing on light leaf mould, in hard clay, or where it is dry. But they reach up to 10ft. in height, and carry as many lovely flowers in my black swampy soil. They seed themselves everywhere, some a greenish white with brown stamens and deep purple on the reverse, others flushed all over with the faintest wash of pink. Stamens vary from green to yellow and brown, and some flowers really look as though their parents might have been just a little bit indiscreet with *Harrisii* or *regale*. I use the word indiscreet metaphorically because the results are most delightfully discreet and pleasing. And *L. philippinense*—*formosanum*—now known as *L. formosanum*, never seems to stop flowering, and I always have masses. *LL. Harrisii*, *candidum*, and *regale* are all nearly as delightful and always show some flowers, but they are more particular about their soil requirements. Only *L. Harrisii* will tolerate anything approaching swamp conditions. *L. regale* likes a slope where it gets a soaking when it rains and is left fairly dry in the resting season. *L. candidum* prefers a good



THE PATH TO THE HOUSE

A variety of climbing plants drape the uprights and cross-timbers of the simple pergola, and various lilies find a space in the narrow borders on each side of the low-clipped hedge of evergreen

strong soil, rather on the dry side, and is now making huge clumps. *L. speciosum* Melpomene and *L. album* have also settled down well, but *L. tigrinum*, strangely enough, is finicky and thrives where one least expects it to, and the same can be said of *L. Henryi*, which also grows well.

Next in importance to the lilies I rate the primulas. I have tried many species and keep on trying them, but *P. helodoxa* is the star turn. It thrives and seeds itself in all the swampy places, its flowering stems reaching three and four feet high, and it is always in flower. *P. malacoides*, in several shades, runs it close. The hybrids of *P. japonica* and *P. Bulleyana*, *denticulata*, *Cashmeriana*, *microdonta*, *Kewensis*, *obconica*, and *sinensis*, all do well, and I think *P. Florindæ* is going to beat *P. helodoxa*. *PP. rosea*, *Wardii* and *Juliae* are difficult. I have seedlings of many more kinds, all of which I vainly hope will flourish.

Fuchsias, ranging from the prostrate *F. procumbens* to the giant *F. excorticata* from New Zealand, creep or trail, or grow into huge

bushes or trees. One difficulty is to keep them within bounds; they prefer the damp shady places, but they are nearly as happy in the full sun so long as moisture is there. I have over thirty species and varieties and many seedlings coming on, which I hope will give me something new. Cannas are a great standby, and I have them in many shades and varieties. They like the rich damp of the swamps, and some are nearly aquatic. They grow up to eight feet high, and not only fill the garden with colour, but also provide the loveliest reflections in the pools. They never stop flowering, but are best in the dry season. I treat them ruthlessly, and pull out all the flowering stems as they go over by the socket from under the ground. If one is kind, cannas tend to grow to leaf, and after a year need digging up, but with brutal treatment they seem to continue indefinitely. I have only one complaint against them; they fill the garden with yellows and reds, and I wish for a blue one.

While we are near the water, there are the water lilies; they intrigue and amuse me. Those which furnish the pools are most fastidious. I have tried many kinds, and only the Marliac hybrids can be said to flourish really well. *N. M. chromatella* succeeds amazingly, and others like Col. A. J. Welch, Moorei, and *M. carnea* are also good. The local blue species, *N. zanzibarica*, in various shades, covers the surface of the pools. I have also one local, and lovely, night-flowering white species. As for the rest, tropical and sub-tropical, I have a host, but they have to be grown in tanks and covered up at night. They are too fussy to stand a sudden drop in temperature.

All kinds of shrubs and shrubby plants grow and flourish, but perhaps the best are the abutilons and cestrums in a wide range of colours. *Echium fastuosum* seeds itself everywhere and twice yearly. For two or three years it throws up its handsome spikes of intense blue flowers, and then it dies. Its short life matters little, however, as it replenishes itself so easily. I have not mentioned roses and annuals, perennials and the multitudinous climbing plants, which all grow luxuriantly. Alpines promise to do well, and I am putting rocks and flat stones everywhere to provide cool rooting conditions for them. In some places I have made miniature rock gardens which are planted with violas of many species, primroses and violets, saponarias, cyclamen, erinus, and campanulas. The two *Androsaces*, *lanuginosa* and *sarmentosa*, look very happy, and mossy saxifrages always have a few white stars on them.



THE LARGE POOL IN ITS NATURAL SETTING OF TREES

A wide range of moisture-loving plants furnish the margins of the pond, affording variety in colouring as well as contrast in form and texture. Watsonias and valerians are to be seen providing a carpet of rich colour in the foreground

LAND CONTROL AFTER THE WAR—VII

THE ONLY WAY TO PROSPERITY

By WALTER HILL, *Industry and Trade Editor of "The Economist"*

LIKE every other form of activity British agriculture has had to be mobilised for war. In essence its war-time problems are no different from those of other industries. It has been called upon to produce a good deal more in difficult conditions. But so have many other industries. It has been called upon to alter its balance, that is to say the proportions in which the various kinds of food are produced. But so have many other industries. The iron and steel industry has had to adjust its output to war-time needs; the motor industry has had to switch over from private cars to military vehicles and aircraft; the engineering industry has had to change over from the production of the goods of peace to the manufacture of war equipment; other industries have had to contract their output; and firms that could not adapt themselves to war production had to go out of business. Retailers, for example, are falling by the wayside in their thousands, without compensation.

To secure an increase in the output of food, the Government has offered the farmer, and the farm-worker, special financial incentives in the form of higher prices and higher wages, as well as technical assistance by means of advice and machinery. Industry, too, has been assisted in expanding its output of war equipment, and the earnings of workers have been advanced. Compared with pre-war conditions, the farming industry as a whole is better off.

POST-WAR DANGERS

After the war the problem of agriculture will be similar to that confronting industry. Both will have to adjust themselves to the conditions of peace, which may involve substantial changes in their balance of production, as well as the size of their output. Many industries will be confronted with difficulties even greater than those of the farmers. A good deal of their equipment will be useless and more will be worn out. They must switch over to the production of the goods of peace, and at prices that will enable them to compete in the home as well as in the export markets.

Many farmers take the view that, if prices are allowed to fall to world levels after the war, they will be ruined; that this would be a catastrophe for the nation; and that, for a multitude of reasons, they should not be called upon, like industry, to undergo the painful process of adjustment to peace conditions. They claim for agriculture special privileges which involve a levy on the rest of the community. If an expanded agriculture can pay its way and provide reasonable profits for the farmers and decent conditions for its workers, there will be no farming problem. But if agriculture wants the rest of the community to make a substantial contribution to its expenses by granting subsidies, import duties, guaranteed prices and the like, then the community must have the right to say what the contribution is to be, how it is to be spent, and to examine closely the reasons for it. To deny the community this right, to allow a minority to hold to ransom the majority, would be preposterous. The food of the people must come before the profits of the farmer.

IMPORTED FOOD

The need for an improvement in the standard of living of the people and, in particular, in standards of nutrition, is now generally accepted as one of the principal aims of post-war economic and social policy. In the past, the exchange of manufactures for cheap, imported food and raw materials has enabled this island to support a growing population at a steadily improving standard of living. This is only another way of saying that the worker in industry has been able to produce the equivalent of more food than the worker in agriculture.

If the standard of living in Great Britain is to be raised, the people must continue to concentrate on producing the things that yield the highest return in terms of goods and services. And, since one hour's work in industry

is generally more productive than one hour's work in agriculture, this means that Great Britain must remain, in the main, an industrial and trading country and continue to import large quantities of food. Its future depends very largely on the ability of the people to keep abreast of industrial progress and scientific development and on their skill in making the best of them. The large-scale substitution of dear home-produced for cheap imported food would spell ruin, for it would raise manufacturing costs and undermine Britain's position as an exporting and trading nation.

The maintenance of an expanded agriculture at heavy cost would not only prejudice Britain's future as a great manufacturing and trading country; it would cut right across the Atlantic Charter. The leading statesmen of the United States, the country whose policy will influence the future course and organisation of world trade more powerfully than that of any other, have repeatedly stated their intention of working to free the intercourse of nations from the shackles of restriction. Britain can only gain by playing a whole-hearted part.

GUNS OR BUTTER?

Two of the reasons put forward in justification for the maintenance of a large and profitable agriculture are that it is a healthier occupation than other walks of life, producing a morally and physically better type of citizen, and that the price to be paid by the rest of the community can be regarded as an insurance premium against starvation in war.

The first of these arguments is a slight on the non-agricultural section of the community who is asked to foot the bill. What evidence is there that farmers and farm-workers make better citizens than the rest of the community; that their moral and physical qualities are superior? On the average, the worker in industry and commerce has been able to provide himself and his family with a higher standard of living and with better opportunities for enjoying a healthy and diversified life than the farm-worker.

The "insurance premium against starvation in war" argument is equally shaky. It is of course quite true that the food situation was serious in 1914-18 and is serious again to-day. But this does not mean that Britain would now be better off if twice as many persons had been employed in agriculture before the war. In that case the number of people engaged in industry, and the size of overseas trade and shipping, would have been smaller. The country's industrial equipment and skill would have been smaller, and it could not have produced as many aircraft, ships, guns and tanks as it did during the first two years of the war, when supplies could not be drawn in large quantities from the United States, whose output of munitions was then still small. The shipping space saved by the additional food produced at home would now be largely taken up by additional machinery and equipment from the United States. You cannot have your cake and eat it! Britain's strength in this war lies precisely in its large industrial capacity and skill which enabled it to produce weapons in large volume and of high quality. A huge revolving stock of imported food in September, 1939—a policy advocated by Sir Arthur Salter and others long before the war—and a large reserve of shipping would have been a much better insurance premium than a bigger agriculture.

SUBSIDY PROBLEMS

When farmers therefore plead for the maintenance of a large agriculture, heavily protected and subsidised by the rest of the community, they plead largely for themselves and not for the community. So long as there is a marked discrepancy between the productivity of agriculture and industry, and so long as food can be bought more cheaply abroad than at home, it is in Britain's interest to import a large proportion of its food requirements in exchange for manufactures. If agriculture is to

be subsidised by the rest of the community, care must be taken that the subsidy is fixed no higher than is compatible with the country's position as a powerful and progressive industrial nation. As the contribution that Britain can afford is limited, the choice therefore lies between a small and prosperous agriculture, able to secure a reasonable return to producers and good wages to workers, and a large and depressed agriculture, with meagre returns and wages. There can be no doubt that the first alternative is preferable to the second.

A permanent expansion in the size of British agriculture is only justified if it can raise its productivity to a level comparable with that of industry. In other words, the farming community, instead of relying on the rest of the country to maintain its prosperity, must strive to increase its efficiency; the future size of the industry will depend very largely on its ability to produce perishable foods as cheaply as its competitors abroad. As the improvement in the people's standard of nutrition will involve a considerable increase in the consumption of milk, milk products, fresh vegetables and fruit, opportunities will not be lacking. Indeed, the rate at which such an improvement can take place will depend, in no small measure, on the efficiency of British farming after the war.

LANDLORD AND TENANT

While tribute is due to the few who, even before the war, were highly successful in farming, it is widely held that, taken as a whole, British agriculture was backward. Instead of keeping pace with the great strides in technique, especially in the chemistry of farming, farmers were content to plod along the outworn paths, often disdaining expert advice. True, there was a lack of capital, and the structure of agriculture—landlord, tenant farmer, and farm-worker—did not favour modernisation of practice.

If the present structure stands in the way of improvement, it must be changed; if the system of ownership of the land is an obstacle to large-scale farming, it must be altered. The nationalisation of the land would probably facilitate the revolution in agricultural practice which is necessary if costs are to be brought down substantially. But, like the nationalisation of coal-mining royalties, it will not in itself work miracles. It will only smooth the path for the reforms which must be carried out by the farmers themselves. Nationalisation of the land must not be just another way of extracting large subsidies from the community in the form of capital investment in improvements not reflected in rents. New capital is indeed needed, not only for purposes of improving the land but also for the machinery and tools required in modern farming practice; but if farming pays capital will be forthcoming without difficulty.

EFFICIENCY ESSENTIAL

The future of agriculture in Britain thus depends in large measure on the ability of the farming community to make the production of food pay. Opportunity to market a larger volume of milk, fresh fruit and vegetables will not be lacking. The efficiency of farming must be increased to bring its productivity more into line with that of industry and, in so far as this can be assisted by Government action, such as the nationalisation of the land, for example, this assistance can rightly be claimed. But salvation cannot be sought along the line of least effort, that is to say by heavy direct and indirect subsidies, for the price which the rest of the community can afford to pay without prejudicing its hopes for a steady improvement in the general standard of living is limited. Finally, if a limited contribution is to be made to the farming community this contribution must be met by direct taxation which is graduated according to income, rather than by a rise in prices which would hit most the poorest section of the people.

[Next week's article in this series will be by Mr. J. M. McClean, a Hampshire farmer.]

BIRDS AT LECKFORD ABBAS—I

An account of the Waterfowl, Pheasants and other Birds in the Collection of Mr. Spedan Lewis, at Leckford Abbas, Hampshire

**Written and Illustrated by
FRANCES Pitt**

It was a lovely spring day with a bright sun, a blue sky and the first swallows sitting on the telegraph wires, when I visited Stockbridge to see the geese, ducks and swans, the owls, pheasants and many other birds that Mr. Spedan Lewis has collected at Leckford Abbas in the valley of the Test.

The house stands beneath a sheltering bank, amid tall trees, near the village of Stockbridge. Below it lies that dream of fishermen, the crystal-clear Test, winding its way through its water meadows, of which it is said that the soil is thin and acid, but the site and conditions are extremely favourable for waterfowl. Behind the house a bank rises to a low ridge where the land is of a rather dry poor nature, and of small value from the agricultural standpoint, but affords a good situation for extensive aviaries, where pheasants of many kinds, a considerable collection of owls, and such things as wild turkeys, peafowl, cranes, secretary birds, brush turkeys, to mention but a few of the inhabitants at random, live and for the most part flourish exceedingly.

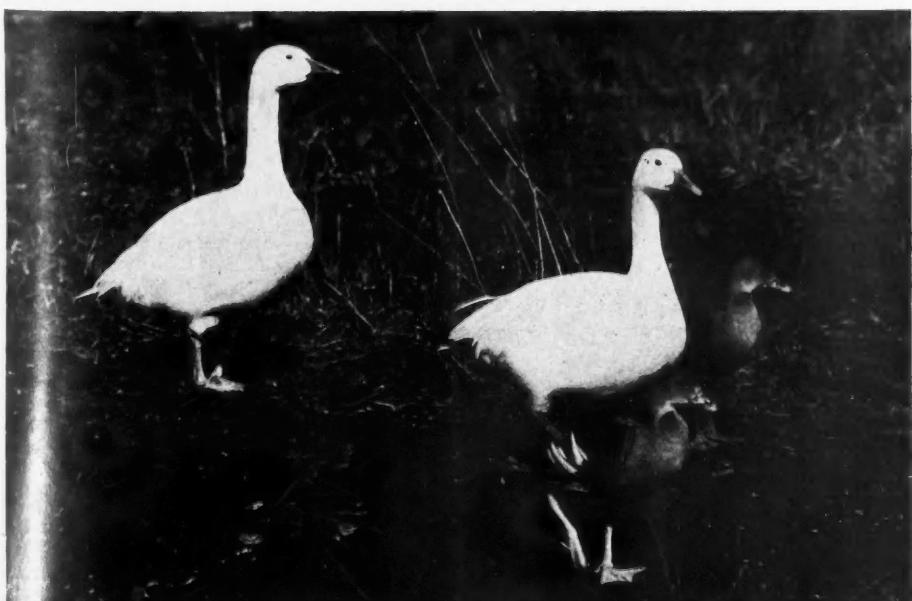
I will deal fully with this part of the collection in my second article. In this one I want to give some description of the geese, swans, ducks, etc., though, before doing so, I must say something of the origin and aims of Mr. Lewis's collection. He was always a keen ornithologist and earlier had a considerable collection of owls, birds that strongly attracted him. In 1936 he built his present aviaries and placed an expert curator in charge, who had the assistance of a highly qualified head-keeper and several under-keepers. His intention was to go in boldly for rare species that seemed likely to prove good breeders. It was and is Mr. Lewis's ambition to give sanctuary to rare species, and breed them if possible on a scale that will make them generally available, at a moderate price, to those who love beautiful birds. He holds that it is only in this way that aviculture can hope to safeguard against extinction species that have a limited



1.—ANDEAN GEESE, NATIVES OF CHILI AND PERU



2.—ASHY-HEADED GEESE FROM PATAGONIA



range and are in danger of extermination. A magnificent sub-species of Reeve's Pheasant is a case in point, its loss being attributed to the gradual felling of certain oak woods that were its haunt.

Mr. Lewis hoped in this way to run his collection so that it would earn a modest profit and allow of the presentation to the public parks and public collections of species they would not otherwise obtain. Abyssinian Blue-winged Geese were given to St. James's Park; likewise Black Swans and Rosy-billed Pochards to Regent's Park. But, alas! the war came to deplete the staff, upset breeding operations, and make the prospects of the whole venture uncertain.

The curator, Mr. F. T. Jones, has been in the Navy

since the early days of the war. Of the pre-war staff only the head-keeper remains, the collection has been drastically reduced, and anyone with less determination than Mr. Lewis might have abandoned the enterprise, but he pluckily determined to carry on with the most interesting species, and, so far, the most valuable birds have come through pretty well. Incidentally, the Leckford Estate farms about 3,000 acres and on such an area there is a good deal of "waste" which can be used for the birds. Moreover, for the greater part of the year the waterfowl are fed largely from weed-cutting on the estate's trout-fishing.

It was the waterfowl that I inspected first, being conducted round them by Mr. Jones, the curator, home on leave from the Navy. To him every bird was a personal friend, and he could give an intimate account of each.

The geese, swans, ducks, etc., are accommodated in enclosures on the banks of the Test, each pen having running water through it. The whole is within a tall vermin-proof fence,

3.—FROM OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Greater Snow Geese from Greenland and Eyton's Tree Ducks from Australia



4.—A MIXED GATHERING IN THE VALLEY OF THE TEST, COMPRISING COSCOROBA SWANS, RAJAH SHELDUCKS, EYTON'S TREE DUCKS, RED-BREASTED GEESE AND A ROSS'S SNOW GOOSE

proof against practically all four-legged foes, if not against those on wings.

The first pen we entered—pen is an inadequate word for so roomy and natural a place—contained a mixed but none the less interesting assortment of ducks and geese. There were lovely little Red-breasted Geese (Fig. 10), which, apart from their rarity, have ever peculiar charm, what with their well-defined colour and markings, and their quaint consequential expression; and there were biggish white birds, rather like very large Aylesbury Ducks, except for their rosy beaks, that I recognised as Coscoroba Swans from South America (Fig. 6), a species seldom seen in England and of particular interest because of its affinity with the Tree Ducks.

From the Arctic regions of the New World had come Snow Geese, as white as their name suggests (Fig. 3), while beside them stood examples of that striking bird the Rajah Sheldrake of Australia. With white beak, white and black plumage, and palest of pink legs, this is ever a duck of great appeal for the aviculturist. It is the proud distinction of the Leckford Aviaries that this duck has bred with them nine ducklings, of which six still survive, being reared in 1940. This is, it is believed, the first time the species has been bred in captivity. The same pair bred again last year, but war-time difficulties caused the ducklings to be lost.

Beside the Rajah Shelducks, staring at the visitors with friendly and inquisitive eyes, stood a group of Eyton's Tree Duck (Fig. 3), an Australian species notable for its strange flank feathers, which are long, slender and curve up over its back.

With regard to war difficulties, one of the saddest losses was that of the first Puna Teal ever bred, it is believed, in this country and possibly anywhere else in captivity. However, what impressed me was the number of rare and difficult species that were still "going strong."

An impressive feature of the wildfowl enclosures on the Test side is the representative array of swans. The Coscorobas have been mentioned, and following them we turned to swans proper, such as Whoopers, Bewicks, Whistling Swans, Black-necked and Australian Black Swans.

The last-named species from the avicultural viewpoint is not a bird of any remarkable feature, but to the layman it is ever one of the most striking of waterfowl. To us, accustomed as we are to the snowy whiteness of the Mute Swan, the sooty hue of this bird from "down under," set off by a red beak and rendered the more striking by the "permanent wave" of its crimped and crumpled feathers, is truly remarkable. The South American Black-necked

Swan—red beak, black neck and white body—is also a fine species, but I have a weak place for the neat Bewick's Swan and for the stately, long-necked Whooper. Maybe my weakness for these swans is due to them both being fairly frequent winter visitors to Britain, and the fact that Whooper is the only truly wild swan that breeds in these islands, one or two pairs nesting in Scotland.

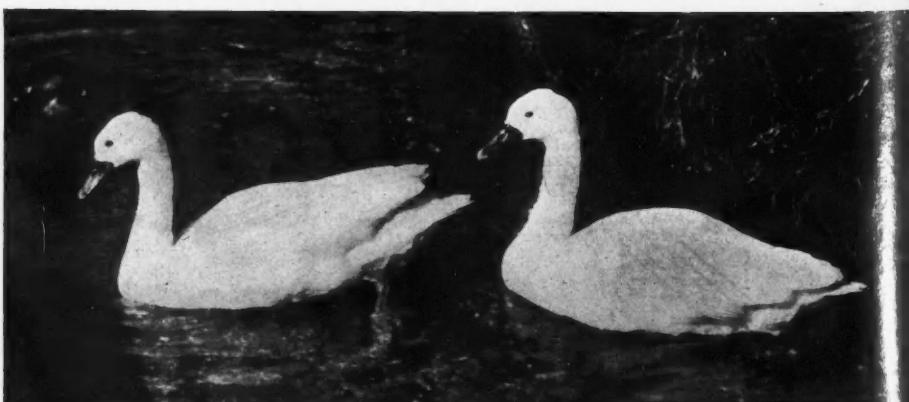
From the ornithological point of view another interesting bird is the Whistling Swan (Fig. 7) from North America, a slightly smaller edition of the great black-beaked Trumpeter Swan.

With regard to the Whooper Swan, all the birds at Leckford are very friendly, and it was most interesting to see a pair of Whoopers going through their display as a greeting to Mr. Jones. The "pen," if one may use this term for the male of a wild species of swan, swam forward with his long neck outstretched, then drew it back, raised himself in the water and spread his wings; in fact, he went through an elaborate display rite that was enthralling to watch and gave one a grand view of a very fine bird.

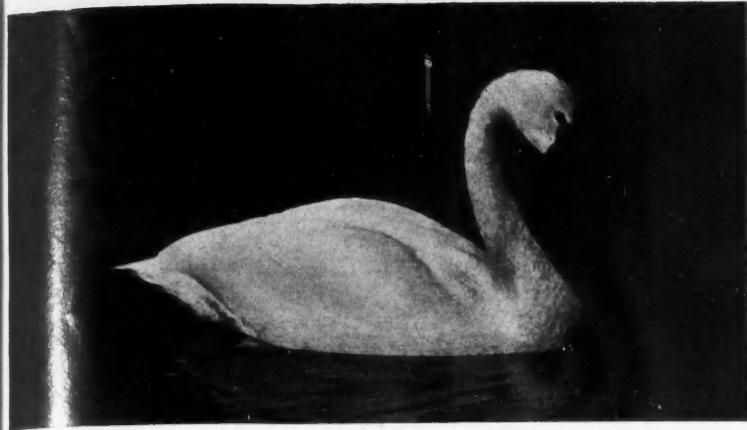
In writing of swans I have left the geese before I had finished with them, so must return



5.—THE BEAUTIFUL AUSTRALIAN RAJAH SHELDUCK



6.—COSCOROBA SWANS—SELDOM SEEN IN ENGLAND



7.—NATIVE OF NORTH AMERICA SELDOM SEEN HERE:
THE WHISTLING SWAN

to these smaller waterfowl to mention that native of Alaska, the Emperor Goose of white head, black throat and prettily barred body; a pair of dainty Ashy-headed Geese (Fig. 2); and an amusing couple of Andean Geese (Fig. 1), that afforded me an excellent subject for the camera.

Birds, even the tamest and best behaved, vary much in their reaction to the camera, especially a quarter-plate reflex with an 8-in. lens. I find that for this type of work it is better to use a lens of fairly long focus, as one does not need to get too close to the subject, and it affords a picture with pleasing perspective. Some birds do not like the staring eye of the camera; moreover, they at once realise they are being stalked. Others, on the contrary, do not mind in the least and approach to see what is going on.

The swans as a group seemed to like being photographed and posed delightfully, but not so that treasure, the one and only Kelp Goose (Fig. 8). This species is one of the most difficult of waterfowl to keep in confinement. The majority of geese are hardy and attain great ages. Mr. Lewis hoped to acclimatise this too. He obtained three pairs. The snow-white, black-eyed ganders, rather suggestive, except for their yellow ochre feet and legs, of ptarmigan, were particularly beautiful. They seemed to do well for a time, but now, alas! only one goose remains. She did not care overmuch about photography, but so distinguished a lady, possibly the only one of her kind in any collection, must be portrayed, so patience was exercised and presently she obliged. The fact was that like many other ducks and geese she objected to jumping into the water unnecessarily, and preferred to cross the stream that ran through her pen by means of a plank put there as a footbridge. I manoeuvred so as to catch her as she ran to the plank and thus got the required snapshot.

I have earlier mentioned the excellent water system of the pens, every enclosure having its stream of crystal-clear Test water (larger for the big birds and smaller for the lesser ones) running through it, so that fresh water is never lacking. The enclosures vary in size and in the number of inmates. Big, pugnacious birds are allowed quarters to themselves; smaller and more sociable species are kept in mixed companies.

I have said little about the duck and teal it is not because of any dearth of such birds, but because a visitor on photography bent finds it impossible to take note of every species. It would take days to go through every



8.—A KELP GOOSE, BELIEVED TO BE THE ONLY ONE IN CAPTIVITY

member of the collection in detail, but it can be mentioned that a feature has been made of Tree Ducks—when war began there were eight kinds in the collection. Notable acquisitions as regards ducks were some Southern Pochard, the pair of Puna Teal already mentioned, and a surviving drake, of what were a pair of South American Crested Ducks (Fig. 9). This, too, is believed to be the only specimen in captivity.



9.—DRAKE OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN CRESTED DUCK



10.—A ROSS'S SNOW GOOSE AMONG RED-BREASTED GEESE

As a good deal has been said about the difficulties of these times and the losses the collection has sustained, it must be noted how well the majority of swans and geese have bred at Leckford. Among other species, young have been reared of the Red-breasted Goose, the Ruddy-headed and Ross's Snow Goose.

Although my visit was in the early spring, some birds were already nesting, and I inspected the eggs of a fine pair of White-cheeked Geese, despite the gander giving me very clearly to understand that I had better mind my own business. This species, it will be remembered, is closely akin to the well-known Canadian Goose, but is a trifle smaller and the breast is a dark grey. Whereas the Canadian Goose is, next to the Mute Swan, perhaps one of the best known waterbirds kept for ornamental purposes, the White-cheeked Goose is rarely seen in collections.

All too soon the morning drew to a close. It was difficult to turn from so many rare and interesting species, but there were yet the extensive pheasant and owl aviaries to be seen, so, with the hour close upon one o'clock, I had to pack up my camera for the time being and make for the house. As the two of us left the wildfowl enclosures I was able for the first time to give attention to the general surroundings, to the wild bird life of the willows and reed beds, to the lately arrived Chiff-chaffs and Willow Warblers singing around, and to a bird voice that rose in a sudden burst of glorious and dominating song—it was a Nightingale!

It was lunch time, and we must not tarry; yet again a wild-life glimpse brought me to a halt. As we were walking up the drive close to the house, with, on the left, a steep bank clothed with golden daffodils rising to a tree-clad slope, a lovely red squirrel bounded through the daffodils, sprang up the nearest tree and from a safe elevation peeped round the trunk and abused me in squirrel Billingsgate. His plumed ears were still to be seen and he was still saying, "Vut, ! vut!" as we passed on.

It was good to know that our native squirrel was here holding its own and had not so far been supplanted by the foreign grey one; indeed my fleeting glimpse pleased me as much as anything else I had seen that morning.

About the afternoon inspection of the varied collections of owls, pheasants, turkeys, cranes, parrots and other birds, I am going to tell in a later article. For the moment I can only say that the enclosures and aviaries on the high ground proved even more exciting than the wildfowl quarters in the valley.



THE RECTORY AT EVERSLY

From the window the ground slopes upwards to a low fir-capped hill "beautiful in light and shade and colour"

CHARLES KINGSLEY AT EVERSLY

By CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

ON July 17, 1842, Charles Kingsley became curate at Eversley, on the Hampshire side of the little river Blackwater, which here forms the boundary with Berkshire. He little thought at the time that, with short intervals, he would spend the rest of his life there, 33 years. He had been born under the brow of Dartmoor, and brought up at Barnack, with its Saxon church on the edge of the Fens, where the shining meres, the golden reed-beds, the countless waterfowl, the strange and gaudy insects, the mystery and majesty which haunted the deep fen for many hundreds of years

were still largely unreclaimed. They gave him a lifelong love of nature and wild things. Later his father's appointment to the living of Clovelly took him back to scenes that he was to make familiar to every boy in *Westward Ho!*, as *Heward the Wake* is the epic of the marshes. But his remarkable mother, Mary Lucas, who had been born in Barbadoes, and the Kingsleys' antecedents as soldiers and Cheshire squires, contributed as much as these early associations to the range of his mature imagination.

The landscape of Eversley was then mostly common land surrounded by moorland and covered with self-sown birch and firs. That, and the Elizabethan rectory remodelled in Georgian times, are the actual background of his working life, and to some extent coloured the vigorous influence he exerted on his contemporaries and the Victorian social conscience. It is this aspect of Kingsley, the "Chartist" and Christian Socialist, the friend of Huxley and Arnold and Carlyle, the agitator for hygiene and decent housing, and no less the adept trout-fisher and horseman, that a visit to Eversley conjures up; the Kingsley of *Yeast*, and of the serious purpose underlying even the pretty "tomfoolery," as he sternly called it, of *The Water Babies*.

For all his extraordinary range of enthusiasm and learning, from the classical mythology of *The Heroes* to current scientific topics, Kingsley was primarily the parson of a poor

agricultural parish, typical, as he found it, of hundreds of derelict communities in the "Hungry 'Forties." He is one of the great line of parish priests, reaching back to Wycliffe, and typified in another age by George Herbert, who, in times of social transition, have identified the cause of their people—the common people of the land—with the religion they preach and profess. This is Kingsley's real significance, and the convenient coincidence of a centenary makes it well worth recalling at a time when conditions present a certain parallel.

It was the time of great agricultural distress and unemployment, brutal poaching laws, of the spreading network of railways, and of sensational scientific advances. The old

bases of belief, economics, and feudal responsibilities seemed undermined by rampant materialism, and the making of rapid fortunes by those who knew how to turn the times to their advantage. Kingsley was not alone in feeling "we are going on in the dark, towards something wonderful and awful; but whether to a precipice or a paradise I cannot tell." In the Church, the reaction to the materialism of the age gave a strong impulse to a revival of ritualism and Gothic architecture, headed by Pusey and Newman, which seemed, however, to tolerate actual conditions through concentration on spiritual values. To Kingsley, with his robust country background, his sympathy with the people and scenes of the old England that

were passing, the function of the Church lay rather in directing the rising forces of reform, and even revolution, towards realising a Christian basis of society. He wrote to a friend of conditions in his parish :

What is the use of talking to hungry paupers about heaven? "Sir," my clerk said to me yesterday, "there is a weight upon their hearts, they call for no hope and no change, for they know they can be no worse off than they are."

The picture he paints of his Eversley parishioners in those days can be recognised in many of his poems and novels, where he showed his instinctive understanding of them :

The clod of these parts is the descendant of many generations of broom squires and deer stealers. He now limits his aspirations to hares and pheasants, and probably once in his life reconsiders himself for a while in Winchester Gaol. But he is a thorough good fellow nevertheless; civil, contented, industrious and often very handsome, a far shrewder fellow, too—owing to his dash of wild forest blood, from gipsy highwaymen—than his flaxen-haired cousin, the poor south Saxon of the chalk downs. Dark-haired he is, ruddy, and tall of bone, swaggering in his youth; but when he grows old, a thin gentleman, reserved, stately and courteous as a prince.

It was such men whom he set about, first, getting to church, their children schooled, the walls and roofs of their hovels mended; with the remoter intent of converting the Government and the



"HIS COMPLEXION DARK, HIS EYE BRIGHT AND PIERCING." Medallion of Charles Kingsley by Woolner, in Eversley Church, cast from that in Westminster Abbey



(*Above*) THE GEORGIAN RED-BRICK CHURCH OF EVERSLY

Tower and nave were re-built early in the eighteenth century, probably by the architect John James, of Greenwich, who retired to the parish

(*Right*) CHARLES KINGSLEY'S STUDY, EVERSLY RECTORY

The room is still much as it was in his time, with his tobacco jar on the writing-table and the bay window that he added opening out to the lawn



nation generally on their behalf to the virtues of "association," in co-operative settlement and trade, communal responsibility for health services, profit-sharing, even central processing factories for their produce, presided over by an aristocracy of talent. He openly avowed himself a Chartist, thereby earning for himself the reputation of a dangerous Radical among the hierarchy of "vested interests"; but to the Chartists criticised their "charter" for not going far enough—for contenting itself with mere legal reforms while stopping short of spiritual regeneration.

Yeast is still a profoundly moving manifesto, in spite of technical weaknesses which make its successor, *Alton Locke*—a grim tale of the sweating system and political agitation—not easily readable now. His ardour is distilled less perishably in the exquisite pathos of *The Water Babies*, and in much of his poetry, which he came to feel was his truest form of expression, "combining painting, music and history all in one." The fierce ballad of *The Bad Squire*, with the refrain of :

The merry brown hares come leaping
Over the uplands still

holds the essence of his pleading for the poachers and pauperised labourers of Chartist times.

Christian Socialism failed as a movement. Yet the long term aims to which it gave an invaluable impetus have been, and are continuing to be, steadily realised in the material sphere, while its spiritual aspirations have no less widespread force, possibly awaiting only that synthesis of moral, scientific and material values which Kingsley tried, unsuccessfully, to supply; the coming of those "heroes yet unborn in mightier lands beyond the seas,"

Who in the light of fuller day,
Of purer science, holier laws,
Bless us, faint heralds of their cause,
Dim beacons of their glorious way.

When, as now, half mankind is united in that cause, we may see this little country parish, and the lined features of the raw-boned, mercurial, lovable man who was its parson, in a new light. In any event, it is "easy on the eye," this group of rosy brick buildings taking their colour from the Georgian church tower, among the meadows and woodlands. Hard by, in its great heathy park, is the Jacobean glory of Bramshill, whose squire was the patron of the living, and whose hounds Kingsley loved to hear—and to follow, when somebody gave



THE LAWN OUTSIDE THE STUDY WINDOW

A friend recalls, as a familiar sight, "the tall active figure of the Rector tramping up and down it"



CHARLES AND FANNY KINGSLEY
An early photograph taken outside the study window



IN EVERSLY CHURCH

The main features, including the Jacobean screen, Georgian pulpit, and plain white walls, are little altered since Kingsley's preaching drew together farmers and reformers, poachers and gamekeepers

him a mount. Even nearer is the little Georgian mansion built for himself by one of Wren's principal architectural assistants, John James, "of Greenwich." It was James who almost certainly designed the reconstructed tower and nave of the church, and saw to the additions made to the rectory at about that time. This sane, light English church was appropriate to Kingsley, who in it set himself to make the Bible "understood" of his mixed congregation of poachers, gypsies, hunt servants, labourers, soldiers, and the increasingly wide medley of strangers attracted by his fame.

But it is round the rectory that memories of Kingsley are most numerous. Writing in July, 1842, to his future wife—Fanny Pascoe Grenfell, the sister of Lady Wolverton, Lady Sydney Godolphin Osborne, and Mrs. J. A. Froude—he sent her a sketch of what one still sees from the front door, and wrote :

The ground slopes upwards from the windows and then rises in the furze hill which is perfectly beautiful in light and shade and colour. Behind the acacia on the lawn you get the first glimpse of the fir forests and moors of which five-sixths of my parish consists. Those delicious self-sown firs! Every step I wander they whisper to me of you. The delicious past melting into the more delicious future.

He was very much in love, and so continued all his life, with this lady a year older than himself, whose influence, it is said, is visible in almost every page he wrote. He summed up their life together in the inscription he chose for their stone in the churchyard :

Amavimus, Amamus, Amabimus

The room in the rambling, comfortable, low-ceilinged house most closely associated with him is the study, with hooks in its beamed ceiling from which he would sling his hammock, bow window opening to a lawn, his habitual pacing ground. A contemporary description tells of

its brick floor covered with matting, its shelves of heavy old folios, with a fishing rod or landing net or insect net leaning against them; on the table, books, papers, proofs, reels, feathers, fishing flies, clay pipes, tobacco. On the mat, a Dandie Dinmont Scotch terrier, wisest, handsomest, most faithful of its race.

His earthenware tobacco jar, kept as an heirloom in the rectory, still stands upon the table, a relic of those nightly "tobacco parliaments," when, the day's tasks over, the parson would give himself to talk, which his impetuous stammer made the more incisive and memorable to his friends, about

Anything and everything—
Up there in the sky,
Angels understand us,
And no saints are by.
Of the Workmen's College,
Of the price of grain,
Of the tree of knowledge,
Of the chance of rain . . .

THE STANDARDISED VILLAGE

MANY large housing schemes, it is generally known, have been rushed through by the Ministry of Supply during the last two years, in connection with new munitions factories all over the country, but, for reasons of security, little has been allowed to be published about them. Those with the long-term interests of the countryside at heart have had to remain in the dark as to what was going on, either resigned to the fears for this and that neighbourhood, or hoping irrationally that all the ideals of preservation and planning have not gone by the board in the confusion of war. Now, at last, news of some of this vast secret construction has been released by the Censor.

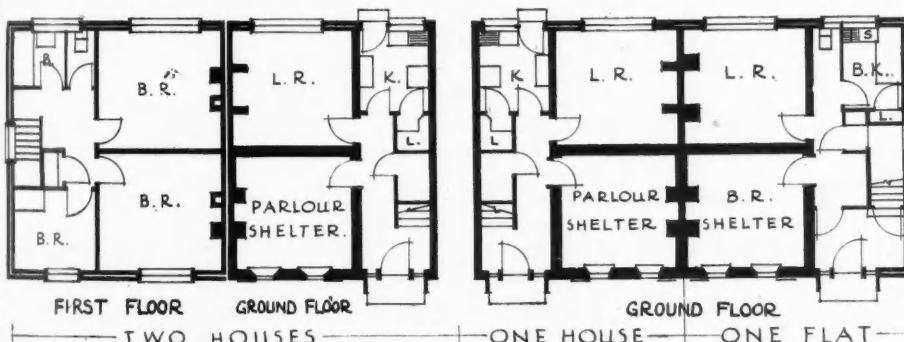
The photographs reproduced are drawn from seven sites in various localities for which Mr. C. A. Jellicoe was made responsible by the Ministry of Supply in April, 1941. They should not only allay the worst apprehensions, but, besides affording very interesting technical points in the overcoming of war-time difficulties, may help us to form some visual image of the reconstructed towns and new villages of which so much is being written and spoken theoretically.

My first reaction to the photographs was that here, allowing for war conditions, are designs for small houses that seem to resolve the antagonism between modern and traditional: contemporary versions of the Georgian and Regency terraces that are so attractive in old towns. The flat roof, necessitated by the timber shortage, has been so used that, so far from ridges and gables being missed, it produces a clean-cut, almost classical effect against the surrounding trees and landscape. The identical standardised unit in which each house consists, and had to consist, has been multiplied and combined in so many ways—according to the

contours and orientations of the sites—that there is singularly little suggestion of monotony: far less than in the average suburb where every house attempts to express individuality. The brickwork, which affords the only surface texturing of the blocks, is not up to peace-time possibilities; yet variations in the bonding, and such touches as the dentil cornice, the ground-floor window lintels of bricks on edge, and frames of reconstructed stone for the upper windows, afford sufficient texturing of the surfaces. The only "ornamental" emphasis permitted is the little concrete porches. The idea of these is to give human scale to the simple block forms and a suggestion of welcome and privacy. The front doors, pleasantly designed in themselves, are flanked by panels of glass bricks which light the hall and staircase. At night, though the black-out does not permit this in war-time, the light in the hall throws a glow through the bricks which makes a porch light unnecessary. And on a sunny day not only does the sun glint attractively on the edges of the glass, but, when some internal door has been left open and the sun is shining in at the back of a house, the glass bricks are often seen to pick up and diffuse the reflected beam so that the porches glow with a strange radiance.

The lay-out plans provide for the planting of the incidental banks, retaining walls, verges and so on with shrubs. Such decoration has not, of course, been possible at present, but should be borne in mind when visualising the completed schemes.

Enough has, perhaps, been said to substantiate a claim for these simple dwellings to be considered as architecture, necessarily of an immature type, but unexpectedly pleasing in itself and holding out reassuring hopes for the future. But, like all satisfactory new shapes, their form was not just arbitrarily conceived:



1.—FRONT DOORS FLANKED BY GLASS BRICKS IN CONCRETE PORCHES

it is the outcome of hard thinking to surmount frightening difficulties, on the part of an architect who is both technician and artist.

Mr. Geoffrey Jellicoe, till recently Principal of the Architectural Association School, it is amusing to remember is an authority on garden and landscape design, particularly on Austrian baroque gardens. Some of the most ambitious formal gardens of the pre-war period are due to him. He is also responsible for schemes for the treatment of modern pit-head villages. Enjoying the eighteenth-century picturesque, he has always approached contemporary design from the point of view of its relation to its setting, for which his early studies of the Grand Manner well fitted him. There are more than traces of Le Notre and "Capability" Brown in these vistas of industrial housing. The Ministry of Supply are to be congratulated on their choice of an architect, for these items of their programme at any rate. But the planning of minimum standard dwellings, and the co-ordination of supplies necessary for their erection, required in the architect no less technical and organising ability.

In April, 1941, when he was given seven sites simultaneously, and asked to complete the work as quickly as possible, interrupted communications were only one of the uncertain factors involved. It was decided therefore to decentralise the office work as far as possible, placing each site under a resident architect to make local decisions and adjustments according to the material available and the accidents of



3.—THE MASS-PRODUCED UNIT, SHOWING THE RICKED-UP WINDOW OF THE PARLOUR-SHELTER



4.—ARRANGED IN ECHELON: ONE OF THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH THE UNITS CAN BE GROUPED



5.—TERRACES ON A CURVE



6.—ON A SLOPING SITE: UNITS STEPPED UP A FOOTWAY TO A TERRACE



7.—PAIRED HOUSES ON A CURVING SLOPE



8.—PLEASANT BRICKWORK TEXTURES IN A TERRACE OVERLOOKING A SQUARE

the site. All structural details, on the other hand, were worked out in London, and standardised as far as possible. The unit itself, the house, was exactly standardised for the mass production of materials by various contractors. Complete sets of drawings, indeed, were made out for two different sizes of brick, according as to which proved available. But—and this is an important factor in the success of the undertaking—this standardised unit had to be of a type that would be acceptable in the wide area of England covered by the sites, and that would lend itself to adjustment whether the site were hilly or flat, urban or rural, the units disposed in terraces, pairs, curves, or echelons. In fact, something was needed with the simplicity and adaptability of a classic form.

The accommodation specified was two double bedrooms and one single, living-room, parlour, kitchen, bathroom, and separate w.c. The question of Air-raid Precautions was left to the architect to decide. At that time it was feared that bombing might be persistent, so it was decided to conceive the whole house in terms of A.R.P., with the parlour as the actual shelter. This conception produced a new external form: there could be no parapets or overhanging eaves, the cross-walls must be kept simple and strong, floors and ceilings planned to give additional structural strength against blast and fire (thereby making a virtue of the necessity of reducing the use of timber); in fact the block of the house evolved as a larger version of the familiar street shelter—an interesting instance of the purifying effect of structural necessity on architectural form. But only the parlour-shelter was given maximum protection, with the temporary bricking-up of its large window—which will be opened after the war. This use of the parlour led, incidentally, to a departure from the usual ratio of large living-room and small parlour: the two rooms are approximately equal in size. It was also required that some of the houses should be subdivided horizontally into pairs of flats; in these a bedroom-shelter is substituted for the parlour shelter, and the bathroom is combined with the kitchen. By the removal of partitions the flats can easily be returned to standard family houses. Where possible the end houses in a terrace are most conveniently divisible into flats. From the plans it will be seen that the houses, and even the flats, are surprisingly roomy, especially as regards staircase, hall, landing and cupboard space.

But it is the possible development of the external house-form thus arrived at, and of the principles of design involved, that are of particular interest. They suggest that the new and reconstructed townships, foreshadowed in every picture of the future, can be both mass-produced yet seemly, indeed positively attractive. Larger houses will then, no doubt, be possible, incorporating more modern amenities. But these schemes show that if, as will for a time be necessary, they are mass-produced, they need be neither monotonous nor unsightly, but perpetuate our architectural tradition in contemporary idiom. In the most civilised epoch of our history we had no objection to living in terraces of externally identical houses. The popular prejudice for individual houses may be overcome if the social and aesthetic implications of these war-time housing schemes become generally accepted. If they are, the possibilities of dignified and imaginative village planning, in the hands of a genuine artist, will be much increased. Some of the arrangements of houses in these schemes deserve comment. The paired houses in echelon (Fig. 4) exemplify a method by which a greater degree of garden privacy is secured than in a terrace. In Fig. 6 a steep slope has been dramatically used: access roads run across the slope, but only a footway makes the direct ascent, pairs of houses being stepped back up the slope on each side of it. The view from the top of this vista is as effective as that up it, where the contrasted levels and planes produce interest and dignity. A subtlety of design visible in several of the illustrations is the variation produced by setting the window-frames either deeply or forward in their sills. By such relatively slight and economical provision, what might be a soulless barracks is given humanity and no little charm.

C. F.

A DREAM OF CRICKET TO COME

By E. H. D. SEWELL

I SAW the last four hit in first-class county cricket on September 1, 1939. It was a proper clout, left foot forward and slightly across, by Barber, at Hove, off the sixth ball of Jim Parks's seventh over. Extra cover and long-off were, if memory has not failed, Cox and Nye; both had a hell-for-leather save to save the four. Or was it to annex the ball, which they sensed might become history?

The fate of that ball still interests me and given birth to an idea. From the figures published in 1941 and 1942, the war has proved to be a small gold mine to some county clubs. Seven, which in the piping times of peace invariably "owed a bit" at the end of each season, have published profitable balances for 1940 and 1941!

Thus we get the paradox that it pays a cricket club *not* to play cricket!

THE NEW BALL RULE

But, having discovered this road to wealth, why quander it, when first-class matches are resuled, on the purchase of a new ball per innings, or per 200 runs? Will not authority come to the rescue, alter the "new ball at 200" understanding—it never was a law of the game—to 300 or 350; and express the hope that, at any rate for the first season after the resumption of cricket, the counties will agree among themselves not to enforce unduly Law 4 with regard to the demand for a new ball at the beginning of each innings? That ball of September 1, 1939, for example, was practically new when cricket ceased. Had Sussex begun another county match next day, Law 4 would have cost them 12s. 6d., or whatever the price of a new ball is (and goodness knows what the price will have soared to by the end of the war, but let's guess a guinea at least), although only 30 runs had been made off it, and 12½ overs bowled with it. After the application of a little mutton fat and some elbow grease, the same ball would fulfil all the requirements of Law 4.

Punctiliousness in all such matters will surely just have to be relaxed a bit when our dear old game puts on its pads again.

One reason is that there ought to be another expense, unknown before the war, coming to the county clubs, when fair wickets are pitched again.

AMATEURS SHOULD BE PAID

Yes, my dear old counties, you have got to put your heads together and openly pay those of your amateurs who "show good cause," even if to help to do so you have to grade the payments of your professionals.

It has always seemed to me an absurdity that the latest professional raw recruit to play for Surrey or Yorkshire, for example, should draw the same fee as Hobbs or Hirst. If Hobbs and Hirst, after years of successful toil, are worth a tenner a match, is it ordinary common sense to pay the youngster from Balham or Bowring Old Lane the same fee in his first few seasons in the county eleven?

Some cynics may gird at the suggestion that those amateurs who cannot really afford to play regularly in first-class cricket should be openly paid. They may be prone to hint that, under the elastic term expenses, some amateurs in the past have made as much money out of the game as have the paid section. That old cynicism that county clubs cannot afford to include more amateurs in their elevens is now hoary-headed. It never, indeed, had any true basis.

The recklessness with which charges of So-and-So being a promateur are made is well known behind the scenes. Perhaps of no cricketer more than W. G. Grace have more reckless charges been made on this subject. If only half of them were true, he would have died a much richer man. They probably originated about the time of the Players' strike of 1890 at the Oval.

The official declaration of the Surrey Club

at the time has never received the attention it merited. In fairness to the memory of the Grand Old Man, I give here a portion of Surrey's *démenti*.

It ran: "During many years, on the occasion of Dr. W. G. Grace playing at the Oval at the request of the Surrey County Committee in the matches Gentlemen v. Players and England v. Australia, Dr. Grace has received the sum of £10 a match to cover his expenses in coming to and remaining in London during the three days. Beyond this amount Dr. Grace has not received, directly or indirectly, one farthing for playing in a match at the Oval.—(Signed on behalf of the Committee), C. W. Alcock."

Grace never received more than £6 for a three-day match at Lord's. This I have on the authority, many years ago, of one—not W. G.—who had a hand in the business.

Although this was in the days when a pound was a pound it is a strange imagination indeed which can bring itself to believe that W. G. could pay a *locum tenens*, pay all his own travelling and hotel expenses for, virtually, four days, and yet "make money" out of a tenner.

WHAT IS A PROMATEUR?

After all, what is a promateur? There has never appeared a clear definition of the term. If W. G. was one, what are those amateurs who, mainly or partly because of their ability at playing cricket, have been appointed paid secretaries of cricket clubs? Yet, while W. G.'s name and memory are held up as those of the best paid promateur ever, nobody ever dubs the paid secretary a promateur. I dream of a cricket to come that will ostracise all such hypocrisy.

The game has never seen such a draw as Grace was. Bradman, Jessop, Hobbs, Hammond pale almost to nothingness by comparison. Why, when Grace was going to and from the nets for the "knock," without which he never thought it a day's cricket, folk used to crowd round him if only to touch him in passing. And is it not on record that when the ball from one of his drives out of a net hit a spectator in the mouth, knocking out teeth, the victim only mumbled cheerfully: "Never mind, never mind, the Big 'Un did it!"

The open payment of those amateurs who "show just cause" after the war would be all to the good, as it would scotch the lying jade for a start. Hole and corner pavilion gossipers would find their snaky occupation gone. Would anyone shed a tear on that account?

In writing of the absurdity of paying the latest raw recruit professional the same match fee as the Test player of 20 years' service, I have not forgotten that, at all events, one of the first-class counties, outside the pale of the Big Six, was differentiating sometime before the war. So that if all counties did so it would not be an innovation.

A PROFESSIONAL'S EARNINGS

Questions are often asked about what are the average earnings of a first-class county professional. Here are the figures for a 20-week season, with a 24-matches card, of one of the counties in 1939:

	£ s. d.
12 home matches at £8	... 96 0 0
12 away matches at £10	... 120 0 0
20 weeks' wages at £6	... 120 0 0
	<hr/> £336 0 0
Less wages deduction of £6 a week for 12 weeks (<i>i.e.</i> , 24 matches)	... 72 0 0
	<hr/> £264 0 0
Plus winter allowance £2 a week	64 0 0
	<hr/> £328 0 0
Plus talent and wins money ... ?	

On this system, the more matches played the greater the professional's income. How does the person who pleads for (a) fewer matches,

mainly because of alleged overworked professionals; (b) two-day matches, and consequent less takings, reconcile these demands with his reiterated view that the professional is systematically underpaid?

Some clubs have tried the system of paying some, though not all, of their professionals a yearly sum in monthly instalments whether the player played or not. Cynics have called this an open invitation to the "pulled muscle," an ailment the ante-1914 cadre knew not! But this method's *cons* are more numerous than its *pros*, as any county club official well knows. I shall not be surprised, however, to find it in more general use in the days to come.

SENIORS' RIGHTS

I dream of the birth of a cricket after the war wherein senior professionals shall openly come into their rightful own.

Why should respected J. T. Hearne be the only professional to be honoured with a seat on the committee of his county? The names of such as Woolley, Rhodes, Hendren, Strudwick, jump to the mind in this connection. The time has gone when the opinion of any fledgling amateur should be given full value in the deliberations of a club's committee while those of men like the four named are either not even heard, or, if heard, are really secondhand.

So, also, should at least one professional be on the selection committee in future; provided he is playing regularly, or better still, has only quite recently retired from regular active participation in the game after a minimum of, say, twenty years. That is to say, if it is decided to continue the usual method of a numerically too large selection committee.

We have yet to try what I believe to be the best plan of all, that is to choose the captain in the September previous to a Test match year and let him run the whole thing, with clerical help from a non-cricketer prohibited from butting in with secondhand advice. If a captain does not know whom he wants, then he is just not the man for the job.

May our cricket be spared the nomination of about fourteen players, some six or seven of whom go to the ground not knowing whether they are to play or not until half an hour or so before the game begins. That method, which has been employed so unwisely, helps to lose, not to win, Test matches. If the eleven is good enough it will win without any of these mollycoddling rules. If it is not good enough none of this "mothering" will help it on its way one run, one catch, or one wicket.

I dream, too, of a new regulation debarring the presence of the groundsman when either the two captains or the two umpires are inspecting the ground at a time when there is a doubt about resumption of play. Groundsmen are human beings. Hence, they will never readily advise a resumption which might damage their sacrosanct turf. To my certain knowledge resumption has been over-long delayed on the *ipse dixit* of a groundsman whose opinion had nothing to do with the actual playing of a match.

The Laws of Cricket simply ignore the groundsman. His official name is not mentioned in them. Yet, at some matches, he would seem almost to be as important as either captain!

"TRAFFIC-COP" UMPIRE

I envisage in our Cricket to Come the umpire being debarred from continuing the *ultra vires* custom which he acquired a few years before the war, of "protecting" the batsman by stretching out his arm, *a la* traffic-cop, to stop the bowler who has begun his run-up when the umpire thinks the batsman is not ready. It is entirely the batsman's look-out that his enemy does not let fly before he himself is ready.

The umpire's outstretched arm is an interference with the play and is no part of his job. If he holds it to be unfair of the bowler to try to get one home early he might just as lief object to the batsman's stance when it

obscures the leg, or leg and middle, stumps from the bowler's view. One act is no more unfair than the other.

I dream of the happier time when the backbone of first-class cricket, the man and his family who plank down shillings at the gate to sit for hours on a sometimes damp seat to watch 20 runs per hour batting—from whatever the cause, and that not by any means only the batsman's fault—and too many wicket-inspections, with the prospect (unless he has come fodder-armed) of a scrambled lunch (if any), a tepid tea (if any), shall receive a fairer "do." County refreshment departments cannot achieve the miracles which our fickle climate sometimes calls upon them to perform, but the

boiling of water and the enforcement of cleanliness, even on crowded days, are possibilities.

Neither is the organisation of a simple system of signals, and if necessary, a loud-speaker for official use only (as Sussex and perhaps a few others have often done), whereby the backbone of the game can be kept *au fait* with details to which, surely, his bob-a-nob has entitled him. More comprehensive arrangements for the comfort of their paying guests will necessarily have to be made by some of the first-class club authorities who in the past have been negligent in this matter.

On the other hand, the backbone must get rid of the idea that everything official is done only for the ribs, *i.e.*, the club members, to the

neglect of the backbone. Such a view clashes with the facts, as may be seen at almost any Test when the ribs are massing in battalions for their lunch or tea.

The fact that public interest in Test cricket and in a very few county cricket matches has outgrown the accommodation at the only grounds where such games can be played is often overlooked. Alleged counter-attractions which pander to speed-lust and to alleged brightness have no effect on a true cricket lover. His Test he will see; and if he keeps away from some county cricket he is really to be congratulated on his common sense, since some of it during the 20 years before the war was not cricket at all.

English Pottery: New Quests in Old Fields—IV

By BERNARD RACKHAM

TEA AND COFFEE: NEW WARES FOR NEW DRINKS

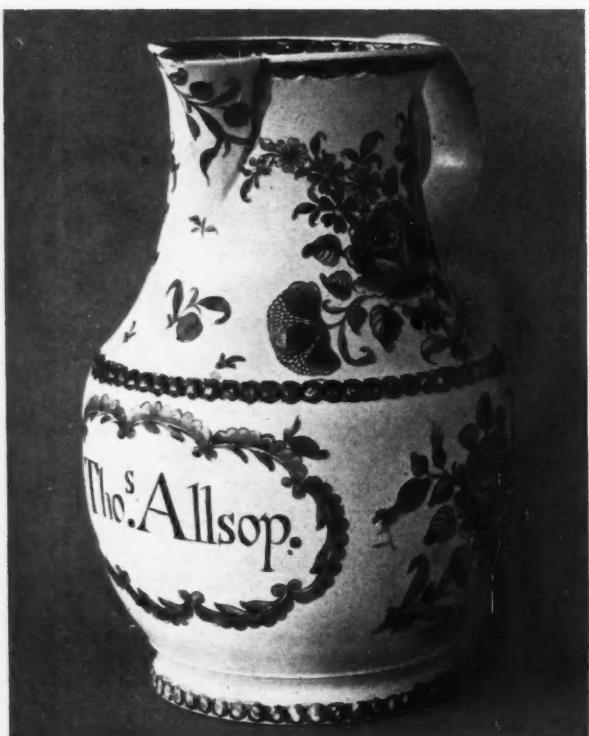
WHEN Charles II was restored to the throne, an Englishman's breakfast drink was, as it had been from time immemorial, ale; but an insidious change was then beginning, by which it was to be completely ousted by coffee and at last, almost equally, by tea. Three years earlier "an excellent West India drink called chocolate" had been advertised; and in 1658 "that . . . by all Physitians approved, China Drink, called by the Chineans, Tcha, by other Nations Tay, alias Tee"—for sale, be it noted, at a "Cophee-house," the first such establishment in London having been opened six years before.

For these new drinks new receptacles were needed. The oldest dated silver tea-pot on record (it is dated 1670 and was a present to the East India Company) is strangely like a coffee-pot, in shape and dimensions, and was obviously intended for serving a large assembly—perhaps at a board meeting—not for domestic use. For that, pots of the more familiar type were soon being supplied, of a size proportionate to the costliness of the beverage. We should much like to know the nature of the cup from which Pepys had his first taste of "tee, a China drink," in 1660, or of the pot in which he found his wife making it when he went home on June 29, 1667. The latter at all events is likely to have been of



1.—TWO COFFEE-POTS, RED, SO-CALLED ELDERS WARE, ONE INSCRIBED 45 ON BRITANNIA'S SHIELD

Staffordshire, eighteenth century. Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge



2.—JUG, ENAMELLED SALTGLAZE WARE
Staffordshire, about 1765. Victoria and Albert Museum
(Schreiber Collection)

Chinese make, and probably one of the little tea-pots in red stoneware preferred by the Chinese themselves to those of white porcelain, and regularly imported into Europe with consignments of tea in the early days of the trade. In this connection it is interesting to note that till the middle of the eighteenth century and later it was the custom of chinashops to deal also in tea.

In view of the risks involved in oversea transport from the other side of the world there was an obvious advantage to be gained by manufacturing in this country wares suitable for the new beverage. The potters of Staffordshire, skilful as they were in the making of posset-pots, ale-jugs and mugs of slip-ware in all its genial variety, were quite incapable, untutored, of producing the dainty articles needed for the new fashions in drinking, and it seems to have occurred first to the fertile brain of John Dwight of Fulham, by experiments with clay turning red when fired, to compete with the Chinese tea-pots in "opacous red porcelain" (his activities have been discussed in an earlier article). Whether he put into operation this clause in the patent that he took out in 1684 is a question still unsettled. We come to certainty only in 1693, when we find Dwight proceeding for infringement of his patent

against two brothers, John Philip and David Elers. From various sources we learn that these men were Dutch silversmiths, of German extraction, and that David had learnt the art of making stoneware at Cologne. They settled at Fulham or Hammersmith, having come to England in all likelihood in the train of William of Orange. Their purpose was to manufacture tea-table wares like those supplied from China, and it is probable that before leaving Holland they had been in touch with one or other of the potters at Delft who, at least as early as 1678, had begun making tea-pots of precisely this kind of ware. The Elers seem to have exchanged notes with Dwight, and it was almost certainly from him that they learned of Staffordshire as a source for the red clay necessary for their purpose. At some time undetermined, John Philip Elers moved from Middlesex to Staffordshire and there set up a pottery near Newcastle-under-Lyme for making red tea-pots to be sold in the shop conducted by David Elers "in the Poultry in Cheapside," which (to quote contemporary opinion, that of Dr. Martin Lister) were "not only for art, but for beautiful colour too, . . . far beyond any we have from China."

It is not easy to identify the wares made by the brothers Elers, and in the



3.—EA-POT, DRAB SALTGLAZE WITH WHITE RELIEFS. Staffordshire, about 1740. Victoria and Albert Museum (Schreiber Collection)



4.—TEA-POT, BUFF LEAD-GLAZED EARTHENWARE, WITH "CRABSTOCK" HANDLE
Staffordshire, about 1750. Fitzwilliam Museum

past was common to attribute to them quantities of unglazed red ware of later date (Fig. 1) with which they can have had nothing to do. But fair probability has been arrived at with regard to a small number of pieces which are just such as would have been made by silversmiths with their antecedents and aims. What distinguishes these at once from all other English pottery of their period is their extreme daintiness of finish, which could only have been attained by turning them on a lathe after they had come from the potter's wheel, a process which would naturally suggest itself to a silversmith but was unheard of in the Staffordshire potteries before their advent. Another link with silversmiths' work is the use for their decoration of metal stamps (a process also employed by Dwight on his much more solid stonewares), a refinement of the somewhat clumsy decoration by means of applied moulded reliefs already found on slip ware from Wrotham and elsewhere. This technique was also favoured for the "saltglaze ware" to be described later.

In spite of all precautions the brothers Elers were unable to guard the secrets of their processes, and when once these had leaked out they were taken up by the local potters of Staffordshire. Inherited skill as craftsmen in clay made them ready learners of new techniques, and they were soon producing neatly made wares of all kinds required for tea and coffee drinking. For more than half a century they were making them in the hard red body introduced as a novelty in their district by the Elers, decorated as a rule in the Elers manner with reliefs from metal dies. Later examples are by no means uncommon, and until the situation was cleared up by a close scrutiny of the evidence, they were usually classed and sold as "Elers ware." One of the most interesting, serviceable also as a chronological landmark, is a coffee-pot in the Fitzwilliam Museum with a small figure of Britannia whose Union Jack shield bears mysteriously the numeral 45, pointing to John Wilkes and the *North Briton* commotion and thus giving a date for the pot not earlier than 1763 (Fig. 1, left).

The potters of Burslem and its neighbouring hamlets were intelligent in a practical way and enterprising; they were soon making other "bodis" besides the red ware, and for about 50 years they were the only serious competitor with the import trade in producing services for the new drinking fashions. One of the—Astbury, it is said—

conceived the idea of obtaining a light-coloured ware, better suited to find a place in the market beside porcelain, by mixing with the local dark clays fine white clay from Devonshire, used at first, like the tin enamel of the delft potters, as a surface dressing; the decisive step forward was made when he thought of adding ground flints (as Dwight had done before him) to make a body both white and harder than the ordinary buff earthenware of his predecessors. Thus began "cream-colour," later to be brought to such perfection by Wedgwood; but an important alternative was introduced by the discovery, about 1720, that the new body could be fired to the condition of stoneware and glazed by the salt-fume process already known to the Staffordshire potters. This white "saltglaze ware" (Figs. 2 and 5) held its own as the best home-produced substitute for porcelain until the making of porcelain itself took root in England.

The early Staffordshire tea-table wares in saltglaze are delightfully various in kind, and often full of charm. The two oldest pieces bearing a date—a scent-bottle in the Fitzwilliam Museum and a flask in the British—are of the year 1724. Soon after, we have dainty articles decorated in the same manner as the so-called "Elers" ware with neat reliefs from metal stamps; most ingenious of this type are the mugs and basins with three or four reliefs of an admiral and ships assembled to represent the capture of Portobello in 1739. Variety was obtained by using a "body" firing to drab, more effectively setting off the reliefs. Towards 1750

was introduced the process of casting in porous plaster moulds, not greatly to the advantage of the wares from the point of view of quality. It now became possible to make articles in all kinds of curious shapes, such as tea-pots in the form of a house or a camel, and some of these are so ridiculously quaint that one cannot but feel some attractiveness in them; but moulds wore out, and blurred reliefs were the result, leading to a lower standard of workmanship all round. By the middle of the century porcelain of English manufacture had invaded the market. The saltglaze potters met the challenge and, prompted it seems by two Dutchmen who settled in their district, they adopted enamelling in gay colours as a novel method of decorating their wares. Their homely renderings of Dresden bouquets and French or Chinese figure-subjects, briskly painted in strong translucent colours, can give pleasure enough if not judged by too lofty a standard (Fig. 2). In "scratch blue" saltglaze (Fig. 5) blue-stained slip is rubbed into incised designs.

Side by side with saltglaze, and often in the same potworks, the district was all the time turning out lead-glazed ware (Fig. 4) of great variety, using the same body as for saltglaze, but fired to a lower temperature. Advantage was taken of the different coloured clays of the region, as by the earlier slip-ware potters, to make such delightful things as buff or brown pots with conventional vines coiled about them in relief, in white, their stems forming "crabstock" handle and spout. Or the clays were cunningly blended to produce "marbled" ware, extraordinarily harmonious and mellow. Manganese dabbed on to the surface with the lead ore of the glaze produced a mottled appearance like tortoiseshell, and towards the middle of the century a clouded glaze of still richer effectiveness was obtained by adding dabs of umber yellow, blue from cobalt, and green from copper, and with these glazes not only tea- and coffee-services but every kind of table ware began to be provided. In making these various lead-glazed wares, Thomas Whieldon of Fenton Low was unsurpassed. His name deserves to stand at the climax of this story of the adaptability of a rural industry when confronted with a new problem and a threat to its existence; he has peculiar significance also as the partner of a younger man destined to become the most famous of all English potters—Josiah Wedgwood.



5.—LOVING-CUP, SALTGLAZE WARE WITH "SCRATCH BLUE" DECORATION. Staffordshire, about 1750

TAKING ADVICE

— A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

IHAVE heard or read somewhere a story of Ray being asked by a golfer how he could learn how to hit the ball farther. The answer—and it has a pleasantly characteristic flavour—was: "Hit it a — sight harder, mate." Here we have an eminently direct method of treatment. It is as if a doctor should say to a patient desiring to be slimmer: "Don't eat so much," and should thereupon pocket his guineas. He would probably be adjudged too abrupt by his patients, and I recall an old picture in *Punch* which points that moral. A spherical and apoplectic old lady is consulting a Machiavellian physician. He informs her that she is suffering from a rare and obscure illness the symptoms of which simulate those of overeating and, surprising as it may appear, must be treated in the same way.

These two little stories came into my head the other day when I took down by chance from my shelves a golf book which I had not read for ages. It was written by a distinguished amateur more than 30 years ago. Towards the end comes a chapter on the commoner faults into which a golfer can fall, with an appropriate cure in each case. For instance, one of the possible causes of slicing is given as "Standing too close to the ball. To correct this," the writer goes on, "stand a little farther away from the ball." On the next page but one, standing too far from the ball is set down as a cause for pulling, and "To correct this stand closer to the ball." These corrections have certainly the merits of simplicity; they do not overtax the intellect either of teacher or pupil. Two other ailments, generally deemed more insidious and more difficult to cure, are treated in the same manner. To the man who finds himself checking the swing at the moment of impact the author says briskly: "Follow through properly without the slightest hesitation." We can imagine the poor victim sighing: "Alas! if only I could," but there is no time for such lamentations, for by this time his teacher has reached another fault. "Looking up too soon. To correct this keep the eye on the ball."

At this point the pupil may be inclined to say with Mr. Samuel Weller: "That's what I call a self-evident proposition, as the dog's-meat

man said when the house-maid told him he wasn't a gentleman." And yet is there not a good deal to be said for this obvious and direct method of stating essential truths? It is, to be sure, but third-form stuff, the kind of instruction deemed suitable for urchins of 12 or 13, as compared with much of the modern golf teaching, which is more appropriate to candidates for Greats. Nevertheless, there are cases in which the very simplest advice is probably the best. When all is said, is there any better counsel to be given to a man who is swinging the club too fast than that he should try to swing it more slowly? I protest that I do not know any.

Let it not be thought that I am merely giving vent to a cheap sneer at the more erudite and complicated doctrine of some of the modern professors. I believe they have probed very deep into the secrets of the swing. It really all depends on what the pupil—or patient—wants. If he is earnestly seeking a general improvement of his game and proposes to undergo a long term of instruction, then the professor may be perfectly right in pulling his game to pieces and starting him all over again from the beginning. If, on the other hand, he is in need of a cure for one temporary fault, then it may well be more effective to tell him to keep the eye on the ball than to dissect his whole swing. If the poor man has to go out to play his next round after he has been taken to bits but before he has been put together again, his last state will probably be worse than his first.

When we try to cure our own faults we do not as a rule profess to remodel our style; not at any rate after we have outgrown that enthusiastic youth in which to read a new book is to try all its precepts at once. Rather do we try to do one thing right which we believe ourselves to have been doing wrong. It is a very good plan if we are quite sure as to what we have been doing wrong; the trouble is that our diagnosis is not always sound, and that holds true of the most eminent. The other day I was writing here of the American Amateur Championship of 1913, which I saw won by Mr. Jerome Travers, although he had to drive with a heavy iron from the tee and was spending

most of his spare time in practice in order to cure an attack of socketing with his mashie. Not long after I had written I lighted on Mr. Travers's own account of that event in a book of his called *The Winning Shot* and found it very interesting.

After describing the agonies of socketing he went through in the qualifying rounds—and he only qualified with the skin of his teeth after a tie—he called in the professional at Garden City. "I thought," he says, "I had been doing a number of things badly but I was wrong in each guess. My fault lay in the fact that as I started my club back I bent my left wrist too far, breaking the swing. It was a matter of only an inch in the swing, but it meant fifty yards in direction. I went out and practised early next morning, partially corrected the fault, which had started to become a fixed habit, and managed to win."

That is an illuminating story, because if so good and so thoughtful a golfer as Jerry Travers was quite wrong as to his fault it is clear that we are not sure to be always right. "Don't let these bad habits grow on you," he says, "and don't take it for granted that you know enough to correct them unaided." He further points this moral from his driving, which was his other nightmare in that championship, such a bad one that he had to stick to his iron from the tee. "Before I suddenly realised where I stood," he says, "this overswing had developed into a habit. I simply waited too long before seeking some cure." Those remarks of his would make as good an advertisement as any school of golf could need. It is great fun curing our own faults, much more amusing to my mind than being cured, and in many cases we know our own golfing constitution so well that we may be our own best consultants, but we do not always know what is the matter. I remember a great golfer who was driving "all over the place" and swinging like a streak of lightning. After much cogitation and carefully watching other people he exclaimed like one inspired: "I know what it is. I haven't been swinging fast enough." So there are times when we should, to quote Mr. Weller again, "take advice, sir, as the doctor said."

CORRESPONDENCE

LAND CONTROL AFTER THE WAR

SIR.—I have read with interest the article by Sir John Milne Home on Land Control after the War. *Eleven Points for a Charter* (COUNTRY LIFE, June 26), and wish that more articles appeared in the Press written by those who have practical life-time experience of the management of land and farms.

I agree with the greater part of the article, but there is one point which I must query. Sir John states that it is quite certain that the costs of management of college estates are much higher than those of a private estate. I have had the privilege of managing for the last 10 years a college estate of about 17,000 acres, and, although I do not presume to think that the standard of management is higher on this estate than on a well-managed private estate, I do claim that the costs of management are not excessive.

During each year of the above period I have kept careful and fair accounts of management costs and find that they average 10 per cent. in respect of house property on a gross rent roll of about £10,000, and 18 per cent. on a gross rent roll of about £20,000 in respect of agricultural land. Are these figures much higher than those on a private estate?

There is one further point which I should like to emphasise. The constitution of the War Agricultural Committees in some counties is good but in others it consists almost entirely of farmers. Few committees have sufficient land-owner or land-agent

representatives. This may be the best arrangement in war-time, though personally I think every interest should be fairly represented. If the Committee which it is thought may take the place of the W.A.C. Committees is to have a majority of farmers on it there will be the same cause of complaint as existed before the war. I regret that I must, for obvious reasons, remain anonymous.—LAND AGENT.

CAN A DOG BE CURED OF HEN-HARRYING?

SIR.—It may interest some of your correspondents to know that I cured a deer-hound completely of hen-harrying at the age of 15 months by taking him on his chain with me each time I fed the hens.

He made many attempts at first to catch them, but my patience was rewarded when he became extremely bored with the monotony of the proceedings and thoroughly accustomed to hens pecking at his very feet.

He is now 10 years old and has never looked at a hen since.—MARGOT WHITMAN, Benenden, Kent.

THE SMALL POULTRY-KEEPER'S SITUATION

SIR.—Nobody has greater admiration than I have for the very excellent work that has been done by the Ministers of Food and Agriculture since the outbreak of war, but I venture to suggest that the drastic plan—in which they have a joint interest—for restricting the supply of feeding-stuffs to small poultry-keepers is a grave blunder.

In the first place it is unfair. Every month considerable quantities of home-grown and imperfect feeding-stuffs are being fed to racehorses. I have yet to discover what racehorses contribute to the war effort, but I do know that the ration for one racehorse would maintain a considerable number of hens. If some official replies that racehorses now get only hay, I am not prepared to accept that statement as true. The cynic may argue that the Jockey Club is better able to bring pressure to bear on the Government than is the small poultry-keeper. I do not believe that, but the fact remains that as from October 1 the non-productive racehorse will live and the productive hen must die.

The rationing scheme for hens bears all the signs of having been drafted by a comfortably housed, urban-minded Civil servant who regards the country as a pleasant place in which to spend the week-end, and has no conception of the difficulties of war-time rural housekeeping or of what an important part the egg has to play. In this part of Essex, and I think the same applies in any rural areas, it is months since we have seen any fish. We cannot get macaroni, or other forms of *pasta*; offals are in very short supply, unrationed tinned goods are virtually unobtainable. The average wage of the industrial worker is now over £5 a week, that of the agricultural worker £3, and his wife cannot afford to buy the "points" canned goods that have such a ready sale in the towns. Consequently eggs play a very vital part in rural house-

keeping. There is another long-term aspect of the question, quite apart from the severe financial loss to be incurred by small poultry-keepers who a few short months ago were being urged to produce more eggs and have laid out considerable sums of money to buy good stock. After the war one of our tasks will be to replenish the impoverished breeding stocks of a hungry Europe. The best quality poultry strains will be wanted. The one breeding stock that will not be wanted is racehorses.

Is it too much to hope that between now and October 1 the Government will realise its mistake? If it does not, I venture to make a prediction. The standard of rural feeding will fall, to the detriment of the children's health, and the Ministers of Food and Agriculture will have alienated some of their best friends, the food producers.—IRENE BAKER WHITE (Mrs.), Coggeshall, Essex.

[We publish our correspondent's letter because we believe her comments on poultry rationing represent a large body of public opinion. We are sorry, however, that she complicates the issue by introducing racehorses. Whatever view one may take of horse racing, either in peace or war, it cannot be gainsaid that the industry is a valuable national asset, and that one Derby winner, for example, is worth more to the country than thousands of prize hens. Our correspondent can have no ground whatever for saying that the one breeding stock that will not be wanted after the war is racehorses. Even if they are not wanted here—and in our view

they will be wanted—there will certainly be a demand for them abroad. Finally, our correspondent should know that the number of horses in training has been drastically reduced since the war began. We agree that the new rationing scheme for hens will bear hardly on many people, but we believe that the shipping situation makes it necessary. If the country could be told more about our shipping losses we are convinced that this and many other restrictions would be accepted willingly, if not cheerfully.

—E. J.

THE NATIONAL LOAF

SIR.—The attention of readers of COUNTRY LIFE should, I think, be drawn to the series of questions recently asked by that indefatigable servant, Sir E. Graham-Little, in the House of Commons about the composition of the new 85 per cent. extraction national loaf. The questions arise from the "confidential



WHERE BAY MIDDLETON FELL
(See letter "A Sportsman's Memorial")

instructions" sent by the Ministry of Food to the millers and signed, according to the statement of Sir E. Graham-Little, by "a representative of the trade." These instructions authorised the millers to use damaged imported flour, to supply flour of 75 per cent. extraction, deprived of the wheat germ, for infant foods and "certain service requirements," to fortify national flour with chalk and to supply the wheat germ for proprietary health foods and medicines.

If the public were getting in daily bread the wheat germ, which contains ten vitamins and is the source of the phrase "the staff of life," these tamperings would still be serious. But when it is common knowledge that the public is not getting the whole grain and, in addition (or rather subtraction), 25 per cent. imported white flour is used in the national loaf; when likewise a shop in London was prosecuted for selling bread with 100 per cent. whole

grain, while the samples tested by the public analyst of the Lambeth Borough Council were none of them up to the specifications of the new loaf, the growing suspicion of the public that it is not getting a square deal with its bread, will be aggravated. When, again, the number of country mills whose grinding stones do not separate the wheat germ has by their inability to compete with the steel roller-mill combines been reduced from 26,000 to 400, it is high time that the public voice should aid Sir E. Graham-Little in his attempt to right a great wrong.

Why is it that in war-time, when the need for a fully nutritious diet is as urgent as that of saving shipping space, the bread that all have to eat is deprived of any of its power to sustain life? If the cynic answers that a private profit is more than a common need, who can blame him?

H. J. MASSINGHAM, Buckinghamshire.

WORMS AND VIBRATION

SIR.—The letter about worms and your quotation from Darwin in your issue of June 26 furnished me with an explanation of a strange happening in this connection, which may be of interest to your readers.

Many years ago, some small boys came to play in my Hampstead garden. Having no toys with them, but never being at a loss to find amusement, they took some empty flower-pots and placed them in a row on the lawn, with the object of producing a complete musical scale by tapping the pots with a stick. This took some little time and much tapping to accomplish. At the end, the children called to me to come and see what had happened, and on going to them I found—much to my astonishment, and theirs—that numbers of worms had come to the surface of the lawn around the pots.

IRENE M. IRONSIDE, Fonthill House, Tisbury, Wiltshire.

A SPORTSMAN'S MEMORIAL

SIR.—The stone shown in the accompanying photograph marks the spot where gallant Captain Bay Middleton, one of the best-known sporting characters of his day, was killed while riding in a point-to-point just 50 years ago last April. The Captain was a match for most steeplechase riders, though he seemed to prefer the smaller sporting meetings and point-to-points, while in the hunting-field he acted as "pilot" for the Empress of Austria.

The stone is in a lonely spot near the site of the Battle of Edgehill, between Kineton and Banbury, and is inscribed: "In memory of Captain W. G. Middleton, who was killed on this spot when riding in the Midland Sportsmen's Point to Point Race, April 9th 1892."—L. HART, Rugby.

A GARDENER'S FRIEND

SIR.—Many people have an instinctive dislike for any creature that is snake-like, and, in consequence, as Major Jarvis remarks (COUNTRY LIFE, July 3), the slow-worm is often killed.

However, it is neither a snake nor a worm, but a legless lizard. Its skin is smooth and shiny, and quite pleasant to touch. It is an extremely good friend of the gardener, as it greedily devours those greyish slugs which are such a pest.

It changes (or "sloughs") its skin, and its present name may be a corruption of "slough worm." The alternative name of blind-worm is also inappropriate, since this lizard has a good pair of eyes, also two pairs of eyelids.

In the summer it gives birth to about half a dozen youngsters, and almost as soon as they are born they can look after themselves. These interesting and valuable reptiles deserve every encouragement, especially in these days when every vegetable is precious.—JOHN H. VICKERS, Hillcote, Hinksey Hill, Oxford.

AT TINTERN ABBEY

SIR.—This quaint representation of three Wye (or Tiber) salmon is on a grave slab at Tintern; the fish was an early symbol of Christianity and of baptism, and the three fishes forming an equilateral triangle would associate the symbol with the Trinity.

—F. R. WINSTONE, Bristol.

CURING ILLNESSES WITH A MAGIC STONE

SIR.—In several East Ceylon villages I notice that magic stones have been set up for the curing of various diseases which the human flesh is heir to. Here is a famous snake-stone, set up in the countryside bordering a coconut plantation where villagers subject to various maladies are brought for treatment. In the picture a peasant suffering from chronic neuralgia is placing his head against the charmed stone in order to get rid of the trouble. The remedy is usually sought when rural quacks or native physicians have not been successful in curing the disease.

Sometimes rural folks bitten by poisonous reptiles (like the deadly krait, or the cobra) seek the aid of the magic stone to prevent loss of life. The wound is placed tight against the stone by the officiating ministrant, and the charmed slab releases, in a short while, the portion of the injured limb stuck against it, after sucking out the snake venom.

So great is the faith of the victims that, more often than not, they are cured even if the treatment has been sought very late.

Of course, preliminary to the treatment, prayers are recited, incantations uttered, and camphor is burnt as an incense offered to the god or goddess presiding over human ills. And the indispensable tuft of peacock plumes, which is regarded as a medium for averting ill, is placed alongside the magic slab of stone.—S. V. O. SOMANADER, Batticaloa, Ceylon.

THE STORY OF A BARN

SIR.—Half a century ago the members of the East Riding Antiquarian Society, on visiting the Spurn area in south-east Yorkshire, examined the church at Easington, and the adjoining Tithe Barn, in which the Vicar formerly kept his tithes. The barn was a fine aisled structure, built of timber, and covered with a steep thatched roof. The farmer was threshing his corn in it, and the engine, inside the barn, had its funnel thrust through the thatch. It required only a single spark to fall and the whole structure, built about 1500, would have been burnt.



ON A GRAVE AT TINTERN
(See letter "At Tintern Abbey")

A protest was naturally made against this danger: the owners, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, were appealed to and complaints were made in the Press. After thirty years' agitation, the Commissioners were prepared to negotiate, on conditions. These were that the Society should put the barn in good repair, have it re-thatched, all the woodwork treated to prevent further ravages of the death-watch beetle, white rot, etc.;



A CURE FOR NEURALGIA
(See letter "Curing Illnesses with a Magic Stone")

and that a large new barn, in brick and cement, for the use of the farmer, built to the Commissioners' plans, be erected on a convenient and adjoining site. The total cost of this was £645, to meet which over 4,000 personal appeals were made for subscriptions, and in the Press, resulting in about half the amount being obtained. The balance was borrowed from the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings. The barn was scheduled as a National Monument, a nominal rent to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners was agreed to, and it was hoped the charge for admission would keep the building in order and help to pay off the debt.

To make it more attractive, I, as the Director of the Museums at Hull, having collected the subscriptions and been responsible for most of the negotiations, suggested that the barn should be a museum of Folk Lore. Old farming and milling appliances from the Driffield and other museums were secured, and the Hull Corporation lent the necessary objects to make an exhibition of altogether exceptional interest, and attractive to summer visitors. With the help of



THE AMIABLE SLOW-WORM
(See letter "A Gardener's Friend")



REGIMENTAL SOUVENIRS ON AN INDIAN HILLSIDE

(See letter "A Regimental Art Gallery")

other specimens obtained from as far north as the Lake District and Northumberland, and as far south as Wiltshire and Sussex, and also from Wales and Scotland, the collection became one of the most representative of its kind in England.

The barn was opened as a Folk Lore museum by the late Dr. F. A. Bather, of the South Kensington Museum, the President of the Museums Association, and the collections have been illustrated and described in various newspapers and journals.

Exterior and interior views of the barn appeared at the top of the article, "Relics of Ancient Crafts: The Need for a National Museum of Agriculture," by E. R. Yarham, in COUNTRY LIFE for January 23, and the Folk Lore collections were described by Mr. Yarham.

The nature of the locality made it difficult for visitors in recent times and the admission fees consequently were not sufficient even to pay the rates and taxes on the building. Thus, after public-spirited people have shouldered the burden of the preservation of the building, the State adds to their burden by imposing rates and taxes. But the specimens were cared for and additions made from time to time, in hopes of better days.

A few months ago, on account of the age limit, I had to retire from the position of Museums Director. In November, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, "having heard that Mr. Sheppard had retired," suggested to the Hull Corporation that they should enter into a new tenancy agreement, or vacate the premises. As Easington was not within the city's area, there were apparently legal difficulties. The smaller objects, therefore, were at once removed and stored at Hull, the larger ones being offered to the Castle Museum at York, and, if not accepted, it was recommended that they "be disposed of as scrap at Easington." This means that, as no one at Easington is interested in bygones, any not accepted at York (and apparently only two of them were required there) will quickly be made into firewood. Thus, the industry of all who helped in getting together one of the finest collections of bygones in England has been of no avail and their work has been wasted.

Seeing that the Commissioners have already benefited by their property being increased in value by the erection of a new barn, it is difficult to understand why they want the old one back again. And this "National Monument" is already being used as a sheepfold.—T. SHEPPARD, 46, Anlaby Park, Hull.

WYRE FOREST WHISKETS

SIR.—Comparable to the Sussex trugs recently illustrated, are the oak-spelk baskets made from the oak coppice wood of Wyre Forest: the trade is centred in Bewdley. The oak poles are sawn into 4 ft. to 6 ft. lengths and boiled in a long narrow tank like that used by basket-makers for "buffing" the osier rods. When properly soaked and while still hot, the wood is quartered and then split into bands of

from 1 in. to 3 ins. in width. The bigger strips are used for the cross ribs and the thin, narrow ones are interwoven across them. The whisket, as these baskets are called locally, is built up round a rim made of hazel or ash rod, which has also been steamed so that it can be bent into an oval. Small oak rods may be used instead (no other wood would be strong enough when split into such thin laths). As



A TURKEY OAK WHICH FELL TO PIECES ON A STILL DAY

(See letter "An Oak Disintegrates")

usual, this highly-skilled work is hereditary in a few families and the trade has been established for hundreds of years. Six baskets is a good day's work. The men do the work in their own homes. Whiskets are used very largely in the coal industry.—M. W., Hereford.

AN OAK DISINTEGRATES

From Major Sir George Cooper, Bt.

SIR.—I wonder if you will consider this photograph interesting enough for reproduction in COUNTRY LIFE of the remains of a Turkey oak (*O. Cerris*) which suddenly, one still day, disintegrated. The estate auditor was

crossing the park on his way back from his lunch and was within 50 yards of the tree when it literally fell apart before his eyes. It gave him furiously to think—of what he had had for lunch.

I understand that it is not a very common occurrence even for a Turkey oak.—GEORGE COOPER, Merton Manor, Hursley, Winchester.

A REGIMENTAL ART GALLERY

SIR.—An unusual type of art gallery composed of the crests of many famous regiments of the British Army can be seen at a spot between Peshawar and Cherat, N.W.F.P., India.

The regimental badges are carved into the solid rock of a *khud*, or hillock, are coloured with suitable pigments, and make a striking display, besides being an example of the adaptability of the British Tommy.

The gallery is said to have been started by the Black Watch and the custom has since been maintained by successive detachments occupying the station.—A. F. EVE, Brentwood, Essex.

THE HABITS OF THE EEL

SIR.—Mr. Vincent's article on "Eel-catching: A Neglected Industry," in

in the mud. We did this for the sport of it. There was, however, an added incentive, for one of the foresters was anxious to get them, since eels made a favourite meal in his house.

During the following summer my father sent his men to divert a burn, which had eaten its way in a great semi-circle into an arable field, back into its original course. The boys were there again; especially on the day when the burn was to be sent down the new bed, for there was the prospect of gulling the brown burn trout in the holes that would be left when the water was cut off from the old track.

It was in one of these that we moved a really big eel from beneath a boulder, and it was with a sense of triumph that, after much splashing and many attempts at fishing it out, we carried this beauty to the wokman who liked eels.

Alas! It proved to be the last eel which he was to think of eating. The most interesting thing about it had been the tremendous girth at its belly. When the man was trying to skin it at night, he found that he could not get the skin to strip over this wide part, and when he cut the belly open three nearly full-grown water rats dropped out. One was somewhat damaged, but the others were completely unblemished.

This may provide an interesting sidelight on the habits of at least one eel.—WM. J. GRANT (Rev.), 38, Cassiobury Park Avenue, Watford, Hertfordshire.

TO MAKE MEAD

SIR.—I have recently come across a reference to a simple sort of mead that can be made by any cottager who keeps bees, which your readers may like to see. You dissolve a pound or more of honey in three quarts of water, and when it has been boiled, skimmed and reduced to half a gallon, cover the liquid and let it be undisturbed for two or three days. The water in which the honeycombs have been washed could also be strained and used to make a better mead, or, with the addition of a little yeast after it has been kept warm by the fire for a few days to ferment, a simple kind of beer. Miss Florence White, in her excellent book *Good Things in England*, gives a full-dress mead recipe as follows:

"Ingredients.—Water 1 gallon, honey 1 pint, loaf sugar $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., the whites of (2) eggs, lemon, peel and juice of one, yeast sufficient to work it (1 oz. compressed yeast to the gallon).

"Method.—Blend water, sugar and honey together. Stir in the whites of 2 eggs beaten to a froth. Boil as long as any scum rises. When lukewarm, add yeast and let it ferment. Add peel and juice of a large lemon. When it has done working, bottle it."

Very good it is!—A. MAYO,
2, The Steyne, Worthing.



BOILING OAK POLES FOR WHISKET-MAKING



THE WHISKET-MAKER AND HIS WARES

(See letter "Wyre Forest Whiskets")

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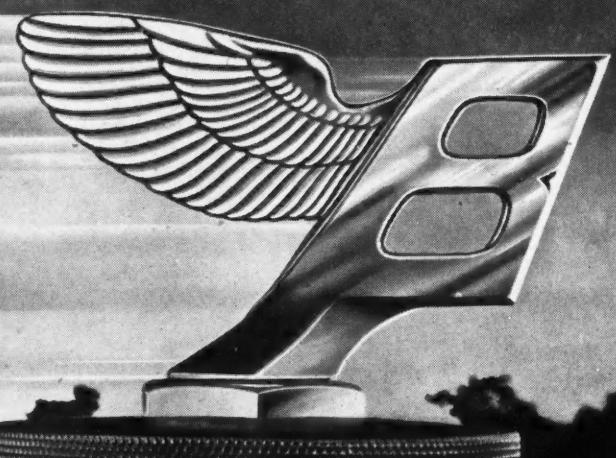
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FARMING NOTES**THE IMPORTANCE OF SUMMER PLOUGHING**

BEFORE July ends several thousand more acres of grass in the heavy-land districts ought to feel the plough as a first stage towards wheat sowing in the autumn. This kind of land cannot be trifled with and needs baking in the summer sun and moving about three or four times if the wheat is to have the best chance to get a good start. Scrambling in corn on freshly ploughed clay land is a gamble that often leads to crop failure. It is certain, too, that if some of this additional ploughing is not tackled this month it will not get done until next spring. Once corn harvest is upon us there will be no tractors and no men to spade, and then we are right into the rush of autumn corn sowing. This rush will be greater than ever with the demand for 500,000 extra acres of wheat, so I am sure it is sound policy to get now into these clay land pastures which are to come up. It is much better to have them in the bag, to use a convenient expression. In a good many cases farmers will need the help of Committee tractors to get this July ploughing done. It is the most urgent work at the moment, much more pressing than some of the Committee's reclamation schemes which are still going ahead.

COMMITTEE farming is always open to criticism, but so far as I have seen examples recently their efforts can stand up to criticism. I have seen some really first-class crops of wheat and oats grown on land for which no one had found much use before. One particular area of 200 acres which has been tackled by a Committee is made up of half a dozen fields belonging to different farms. The farmers are dairy men who have no knowledge of arable cropping and no desire to take on the responsibility. The land was doing very little. It was really surplus to the requirements of their dairy herds. So the Committee went in and, applying all the resources of modern machinery and fertilisers, they have grown excellent crops. The oats will go in part to the farmers, which will help towards the feeding of their cows this winter. They have each grown a patch of kale which will come in useful for the cows. I am certain in my own mind that these farmers would not have been able to make much of a success of corn growing. They would have spent their time and money but failed to make a complete success of the job. From the national point of view it is clear gain to have such land properly farmed. What will happen to it after the war is difficult to say, but presumably there will be some arrangements for seeding down so that these fields can be incorporated again in the original farms, to give better grazing than they have had for many years.

ALTHOUGH many thousands of miles of ditches have been dug in the past two years, there is still a great deal of this work to be done before all the ploughable land in the country is relieved of surplus water so that it can grow good crops. The progress of ditching slows up in the summer. The men are taken off drainage for urgent seasonal work on the crops. They have been busy hoeing sugar beet and other root crops. This is true not only of the regular farm men but also of the Italian prisoners who were brought into this country especially for drainage work. They have been put on to threshing in the winter and potato planting and root hoeing since.

THIS existence of this labour force which could be drawn upon for day-to-day farm work in an emergency has absolved some farmers from searching as hard as they might have done for part-time tillage labour to help with potato planting and root hoeing. In some districts the Women's Institutes have organised a roll of local women who are prepared to go out for whole days or half-days to help on local farms in the busiest times. This is proving a great help. If this had been done generally and the fullest use made of schoolboys who can

come out for half-days during term-time, it would have been possible to keep the Italian prisoners on their drainage work.

MANY people have, I am afraid, been caught out by the Government's decision to cut down the rations allowed to poultry and pigs. The reductions in the rations allowed to backyards are no more severe than the cuts being made in the rations that farmers can draw for their pigs and poultry, but for more than two years the farmer has been warned that if he wants to continue keeping livestock, as everyone does, he must grow the major part, if not all, of the feeding-stuffs they require. The backyards, on the other hand, cannot make himself self-supporting completely. He can go a good way along the road by growing such crops as sunflower and possibly buckwheat

and oats for his hens, but he does need to buy some concentrates to make a complete ration for his birds. Anyway, he is not in business as a food producer. He may be a railwayman, a school teacher, or a solicitor, with no great amount of time for cropping his garden beyond growing vegetables for the household. He had come to look on the ration of balancer meal as a right if he kept hens. As the food scraps from his kitchen and from his neighbours' kitchens should not amount to anything much in these days, many backyards find themselves faced with the necessity of reducing the number of birds just when they have spent money on buying replacement pullets at high prices. This is all very unfortunate, but rations of feeding-stuffs must always be an uncertain quantity in war-time. If we eat bran in our bread we cannot expect to have it for our hens.

CINCINNATUS.

THE ESTATE MARKET**LOCH NESS AND GLEN URQUHART**

TWO names of world-wide fame are prominent in an announcement of the coming offer of approximately 50,000 acres of Scottish land. It is evident that recourse has been had to many a portly volume in the preparation of the preliminary notice, by the Leeds office of Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, of their having received instructions to sell under the hammer the estates known as Balmacaan and Briachan, which comprise a large section of Loch Ness and the whole of Glen Urquhart. The property, formerly part of the Seafield estates of the Dowager Countess of Seafield, extends to nearly 50,000 acres, comprising valuable farms and extensive stretches of rich pasture. On the valley slopes there are crofts that have remained the lands of the Macdonalds, the Urquharts, the MacLeans and the McMillans and Chisholms from time immemorial. The sporting and fishing in the Glen, in the River Enrick and the multitudinous lochs on the estate is much sought after. Perhaps the outstanding feature at the present time is the extensive woodlands, from which the sale will release a vast quantity of timber for the national effort. Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff are preparing detailed schedules of these woodlands for the purposes of conversion, but "although many of the forest sections may have to be cut, such is the topographical arrangement that the general appearance of the valley and the lochside will in no way be impaired, as the greater number of the coniferous woods lie on the hill-tops beyond the vision of the inhabitants of the Glen." The estate is to be offered first as a whole, and, if not sold, then in two lots, the northern section from Douchfour March to Loch Meikle, about 15,000 acres, and the remainder of the estates on the south, from Urquhart Castle to Balmacaan Forest, about 35,000 acres. There is a total estimated rent roll of £5,700 a year on the estates.

ANCESTRAL LORE OF URQUHART

GLEN URQUHART has been long renowned as one of the most fertile vales of the Highlands. It is therefore not surprising to read of the important part that it played in the history and turbulent development of Scotland in olden times. Urquhart Castle was built to defend the valley and its riches from marauders, either clansmen or English. The Glen abounds in tradition, from the Roman times, through the Charter of 1509, when the lands passed to John Grant of Freuchie, to the present time. In 1020 the lands passed to the famous MacBeath, who in turn betrayed them to the Norwegian Earl Thorfinn, and the Moraymen were not free of the Viking rule until 1057. In the latter half of the twelfth century we find Urquhart under the rule of Conachor, who is supposed to be the common ancestor of the Forbeses, MacKays and Urquharts. The Castle of Urquhart appears for the first time in the pages of undoubted history when seized by Edward I and placed under the charge of Sir William Fitzwarine. Later it fell to the followers of Wallace and was held for him by Alexander de Bois, who in his turn was besieged by the English. De Bois, after sending his wife through the besieger's ranks dressed as a beggar-woman, endeavoured to fight his way out of the keep until not one of his men was left alive. Urquhart Castle, about this time, was referred to in a letter from the Earl of Atholl to Edward I as "one of the two strongest castles in the country." When finally Scotland was freed from

the English by Robert the Bruce, Urquhart passed by charter to Thomas Randolph, and eventually reverted to the Crown in 1346. Subsequently it was granted to the Earl of Sutherland, and through him, by the Earl of Strathearn, to the Wolf of Badenoch, whose record for lawlessness was renowned throughout Scotland.

PASSING TO THE GRANTS

IN the fifteenth century, the lordship of Urquhart was granted to the Lord of the Isles for life, but his claim was contested by the MacLeans, and in 1509 the bone of contention was forcibly removed when Parliament, by Royal Charter, granted the lordship to John Grant, known as the Red Bard, and it has remained in the Grant family until the present day. Although the Grants retained their hold throughout the years, the tenure was not one of constant peace. When Sir Donald MacDonald was proclaimed Lord of the Isles in 1513, he seized the castle, expelled the garrison and kept forcible possession of Glen Urquhart for three years; and then, throughout the troubles with the Stuarts, the earlier Grants seem to have supported the Crown, but we find later that the Laird of Grant stood by William and Mary while the men of Urquhart remained with King James. Before that, however, on January 11, 1692, the written military record of the old fortress of Castle Urquhart was closed and soon afterwards it was vacated by the Whig soldiers, who, practising what is known to-day as the scorched-earth policy, prevented its occupation by the Jacobites by blowing up the keep and entrance towers and destroying it as a place of strength. At the time of the Chevalier, history shows Brigadier Grant on the side of King George, but the people of the valley still leaning towards the Stuarts. The cause of Prince Charlie prospered in the valley and he drew many recruits from Urquhart, but with Culloden ended the last of the many "troubles" in which the men of Urquhart took part for their Royal line, though outrages and legislation followed.

A BERWICKSHIRE ESTATE SOLD

THE estate of Wedderlie, about 3,200 acres, including Wedderlie House and large home farm with the farm of Cammerlaws, has just changed hands. The property, on the southern slopes of the Lammermuir Hills, includes about 1,200 acres of grouse moor. Wedderlie House is a seventeenth-century building attached to an earlier Border tower, and is of architectural interest. Wedderlie sheep farm is well known in the Lauder and Duns district.

TOWN AND COUNTRY TRANSACTIONS

JOINTLY, Messrs. George Trollope and Sons and Messrs. Osborn and Mercer have sold Staunton Court estate, Herefordshire, comprising several farms, bringing in an annual income of over £1,000. The farmhouses and buildings have been well maintained, and the land, extending to 650 acres, is some of the best in the district. Messrs. Wood and Walford acted for the purchaser. Messrs. George Trollope and Sons, acting for the owner, have sold the Westminster lease of No. 69, Mount Street. Before the auction they disposed of freehold investments in Marylebone, Chelsea and St. Pancras, for the executors of Mrs. Eva Harrington, and they have sold freehold ground rents at Ealing. ARBITER.

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NEW BOOKS**TRAVELS OF A DIPLOMAT****Reviews by HOWARD SPRING**

SIR Thomas Hohler's *Diplomatic Petrel* (Murray, 15s.) is an account of a lifetime spent in the Diplomatic Service. The author served in Turkey, Egypt, Russia, Japan, Abyssinia, Mexico and the United States of America. The chapters which interested me most were those dealing with Abyssinia and Mexico.

Menelek was on the throne when Sir Thomas was at Addis Ababa, and we are given some life-like pictures of the wily old man—or one should say “aged monarch,” as the author discovered when King Edward amended one of his despatches.

In the Christian country of Abyssinia, where there were monasteries in plenty, slavery was rampant, the punishment of death by stoning was carried out, and offenders were publicly excoriated with rawhide whips. Menelek had his own way of testing the quality of a man's courage. On one occasion, when the author went for an audience, the Emperor was sitting on a veranda 20ft. from the ground and reached by an iron staircase. “When I had gone one or two steps up, I noticed a lion at the top of the stairs, and I also observed that his Majesty had his eye on me. In a flash I decided that he would not be anxious to damage the person of the British Representative, and without hesitating I went up the stairs and stopped to look at the lion, which was chained to the balustrade. He put out a claw, but could not reach me. I went up to the Emperor and congratulated him on the beauty of his new pet.”

OIL IN MEXICO

Sir Thomas reached Mexico shortly before Porfirio Diaz was chased from the country and a period of chopping and changing set in, little different from anarchy. He writes well enough about all this, but my own interest was more deeply engaged by what he has to say concerning the early days of boring for oil in Mexico.

How brutal and wasteful men are in their greedy rush for Nature's irreplaceable wealth! One well was so inexpertly bored that “a great column of oil, about a foot thick, burst up into the air” before there was any preparation for dealing with it. It caught fire, and the fire raged for eight months; 130,000 barrels of oil a day were wasted during that time, rivers were polluted, fish killed, vegetation was destroyed, and a whole countryside befouled.

On another occasion, “the stream was ten inches thick and about 300 feet above the ground. It rained thick fuel oil for two miles round, which expanded into five miles when the wind blew.”

These were among Lord Cowdray's ventures. “I do not know,” says the

author, “how many millions Lord Cowdray made from his success in oil,” and a few pages later he poses, but unconsciously, the pretty ethical question: “What is a bribe?” Sir Thomas writes: “I never knew whether Cowdray actually bribed any of the Mexicans, but it is my firm conviction that he did not. He sometimes gave valuable presents and he appointed prominent Mexicans to positions which did not involve much work in his businesses, but I believe he acted throughout in an entirely honourable and straightforward way.”

Sir Thomas Hohler is not very bright at describing the people he came across. Von Papen was one of them, and he is called “humorous and witty, but heavy and obtuse.” This is as enlightening as to say that a man is gay and charming, but a surly boor.

Mr. Douglas Reed's *All Our To-morrows* (Cape, 10s. 6d.) is as lively, irreverent and penetrating as we expect this author's books to be. It is not, like his former books, an examination of a particular thesis, but it skips hither and thither, commenting on what catches the author's eye and engages his mind.

One warning, however, recurs. Again and again he cries: “Look back!” He has no patience with those who say this is no time for inquests. Only by repeated examination of errors, by careful scrutiny of the men who made them and who still are in power, can we, he thinks, reach profitable lines for present conduct. Those who tell us not to look back are aware of many things they would like us to forget. Mr. Reed is as keenly aware of many things he would like us to remember and do something about.

He is no acceptor of catchwords. It is a catchword that this is a Democracy. He does not think so. His definition of a Democracy is a condition of things in which a people in the last resort can enforce its will upon its leaders. “In this country the possibility does exist; but it has been enchain'd in so many ways that the people do not believe it exists, and from apathy do not strike off the chains. That is why Democracy does not exist, for all the outer trappings, in this country.”

STATE AND PEOPLE

He has some timely things to say on the locust-host of officials, obeying the behest of the growing power of what is called the State. He wisely reminds us that the State and the people are by no means the same thing. “The State is officialism, the implacable enemy of all human freedom and dignity. ‘The State’ is that great army of exclusive and exempt and privileged and mutually back-scratching officials which we already

have—multiplied by a thousand. 'The State' is a new ruling class of officials, great and petty, far more immune, immutable and immovable than our present rulers."

OUR APATHY

The trouble is, as Mr. Reed sees it, that public apathy about its own health and salvation is desperately deep. "To me, the average native citizen of this country appears as a man of the highest inherent qualities, reduced to the point of extinction. If his spirit were to be destroyed, his realm would collapse, and his last few liberties to be stolen, this epitaph should be engraven on his tomb: 'He died protest too little.'"

Mr. J. Middleton Murry, too, is concerned about the filching of liberty which goes on, with no protest made, under our very eyes, and in the name "austerity." Mr. Murry's book *Virocracy* (Dakers, 6s.) is written by a pacifist who thinks we should have gone into the war at all, who believes it would be wise to end it by a compromise, and who points to the present position of Denmark as a happy illustration of the felicity that is the reward of non-resistance.

Deeply as I disagree with all this side of Mr. Murry's argument, I am with him in his concern about the liberties of the people. All history, so far, he thinks, has been a record of a "sub-Christian" fashion of living. To call for Christianity now "seems quite irrelevant, like reading a chorus from Euripides to a roomful of school children awaiting instruction in the three R's."

All we can do, Mr. Murry thinks, is preserve a state of society

in which there is at least a hope that Christianity may make a beginning, and the basis of such a society must be tolerance and a dedication to the principle of peaceful domestic change.

These things have been known in England: there is risk that in the stress of total war they will be lost—lost not only to us but to all the world, and perhaps for ever. He believes that this precious possession of the English people not only may be but "probably will be lost in the blindness of the effort to defend it. This is our tragic dilemma, the profound religious crisis in which we are involved. And we are caught in this toil because we were unconscious that this thing—call it simply British liberty, or a peaceful society—could be defended only by being enlarged by positive and creative acts at home. We cannot defend it merely by struggling to destroy the forces that oppose it in the great world."

Thus, from Mr. Douglas Reed, who is for the most vigorous prosecution of the war, and from Mr. Murry, who would have had us stand altogether aside from the conflict, comes the same warning of the danger, in which we daily find ourselves of allowing the slow corrosive seepage into our public life of those very sins against the unique individual soul which are held up for our regard as the hall-mark and certain sign of the beastliness of our adversaries.

It is disappointing to take up a book, expecting to be able to praise it, and then to find that you can do nothing of the sort. That was my fate with Russell Green's *Northern Star* (Rich and Cowan, 8s. 6d.). I see I am quoted on the jacket as having said

that I thought Mr. Green's *Prophet Without Honour* one of the best first novels I had read for a long time.

I have still a lively recollection of the excellence of that book, but there is nothing in the new one to bear out my hopes. Mr. Green's writing, for one thing, has become intolerably fat and pompous. "His domiciliary ambition was grievously wounded by the base necessity of using the same entrance corridor with the next-door neighbour," which means, I take it, "He disliked having to reach his front door along the same passage as his neighbour."

BOY FROM SHEFFIELD

The tale is of a Sheffield boy of poor family who makes his way to Oxford by means of scholarships, but the boy and his relations are all dead as mutton, and their doings, anyway, are a thin trickle through voluminous writing on the history of the period, which has all the marks of having been lifted, or recollected, from newspaper files.

Mr. Green writes of the danger of exaggerating memory—"with beauty but without truth." He might have avoided much dullness if he had recalled and understood Keats's saying that beauty is truth. There's something in it.

Stuart Baker has concentrated on that peculiar and fascinating bird, the cuckoo, considering it and its problems in various parts of the world, especially as regards the species of cuckoos of the Old World. Mr. Harrison, on the contrary, has concentrated on a limited locality and deals with the very considerable number of birds that occur there. The illustrations, in colour, are from his own brush. There is valuable work in both books and much of exceptional importance in that of Mr. Stuart Baker, whose 70 years' study of cuckoos, their histories, and his collection of some 6,000 cuckoo eggs from practically all over the world, give him especial authority. He sets forth evidence to prove that the need for the cuckoo's egg to be adapted in colour to resemble that of its foster-parent, has brought into existence strains of cuckoos parasitic on certain species. He argues that we here see evolution according to Darwin's "survival of the fittest" in operation, his belief being that "adaptation has been brought about by the constant elimination of those eggs which contrast most strongly with the eggs of the fosterers," and he gives evidence from India of adaptation in progress. It is interesting to note that Mr. Stuart Baker has kept an open and unbiased mind on that controversial question: how does the cuckoo introduce its egg into the nest of the fosterer? With regard to the colour and markings of the cuckoo's egg, Mr. Stuart Baker advances the theory that colour and pattern are hereditary "in the female" and that the male has no influence on the type of egg laid by his daughters. Such a suggestion is not in conformity with the findings of students of genetics working on the common hen, etc., but it may nevertheless be correct. In any case, this book is likely to become a classic on its subject and have a place on the shelf of every ornithologist. F. P.

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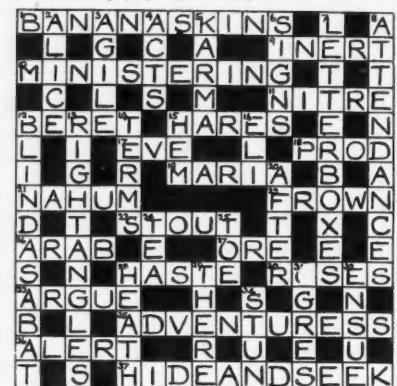
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"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD

No. 651

SOLUTION to No. 650

The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of July 10, will be announced next week.



A prize of two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 651, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, July 23, 1942.

The winner of Crossword No. 649 is
Mrs. V. Gee, 24, Bushwood, E.11.

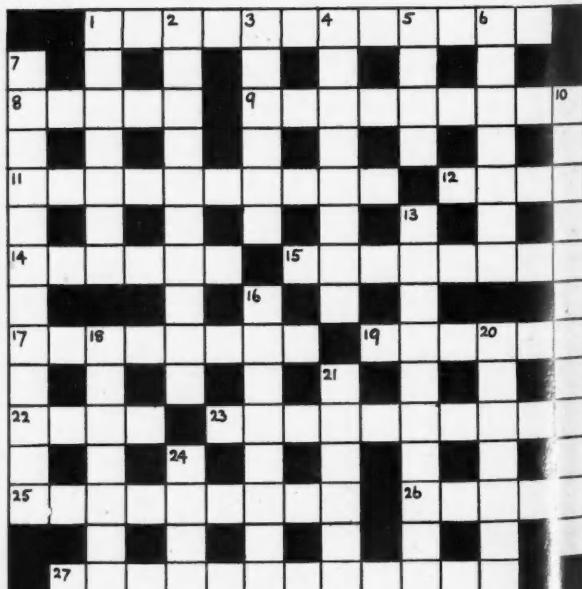
ACROSS

- If they were actually composed of their first syllable, even cream wouldn't make them palatable! (12)
- Flower-de-luce (5)
- Offspring of a canine Scot (two words, 6, 3)
- and those of a royal beast (two words, 4, 6)
- German housewife (4)
- Earns up to fifty? (6)
- Woman's prerogative (two words, 4, 4)
- Soporific (8)
- and so clear your debt (two words, 3, 3)
- A Welshman confused in the body of the church? (4)
- At the back of a terrestrial Charles's Wain? (two words, 6, 4)
- Describes Shakespeare's lean pantaloon (9)
- Those of 8 are used in perfumery and medicine (5)
- Though it no longer covers whiteness, Nanny still guarantees it will produce curls! (three words, 5, 2, 5)
- A pair of backward buds? Or part refrain of the tub-rollers? (two words, 3, 3)
- At such resorts the pass is not in order (4)

DOWN

- Tumour resulting in stupor at last? (7)
- In church, and made of glass, though it sounds floral (two words, 4, 6)
- Epithet for the Uncles of the Babes in the Wood (6)
- Instrument for transfixing a slippery customer (two words, 3, 5)
- Story by Somerset Maugham (4)
- "Seaport" (anagr.) (7)
- A Defoe heroine (two words, 4, 8)
- Shylock might find it hard to get in these days (three words, 5, 2, 5)
- Equine wanderer (two words, 5, 5)
- Irish trout (8)
- Comparative quality inapplicable to Ethelred? (7)
- "Four ducks — — — — — A grass-bank beyond . . ." — William Allingham (three words, 2, 1, 4)
- A pair of backward buds? Or part refrain of the tub-rollers? (two words, 3, 3)
- At such resorts the pass is not in order (4)

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 651



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THE autumn shoe collections, always the first to be ready, are the first to give us a hint of what is to come next season. The big manufacturers are concentrating on a few good designs, show a lot of colour, a wealth of invention in producing materials to replace leather, and a wholesale ingenuity in overcoming difficulties in production. One fact they establish beyond doubt—that a comfortable, workmanlike shoe need not be dull. Joyce show a walking shoe in nut-brown calf, without stitching or trimming of any kind. It is brand new because it fastens round the ankle like a ballet dancer's with criss-crossing cords. This shoe has an easy, medium wedge heel, is so soft and light it could be worn for dancing, but is strong enough for walking in the country. It has the low-cut front of a beach shoe and for the summer is being made, heelless and toeless, in gabardine, with a leather wedge and cords in a contrasting shade. Cherry with a brighter than navy gabardine has been a popular combination, charming with all frocks and slacks, or as a bedroom slipper or house shoe. Joyce are designing a series of this useful kind of slipper, that is reminiscent of espadrilles, in bright suèdes and gabardines for the winter house-slippers-cum-dance shoes, as good with slacks as with the plain little afternoon frocks of next season.

Brevitt tell me that bright colours have had an amazing success this summer. Their "Bouncer" that we photographed some weeks ago is most popular of all in scarlet or in bright green piped and laced with scarlet. "Clipper" is good in russet brown suède piped and tabbed with tan leather, and is a best seller.

Norvic feature this russet brown, too, and deep, rich blues.

A whole army of clothes has been designed for hard work. Slacks in men's suitings, in coarse rayon linens, in grey flannel and corduroy, are in great demand by fruit pickers, gardeners, housewives. Grey flannels still lead, but are run close by the Glen checked suitings. Shirts in striped men's cottons with stiffened collars, are made with short sleeves for outdoor work, and are very smart with the grey slacks. Aertex still have a good selection of checked and plain shirts in mesh cotton. Cashmere cardigans are new bound with ribbon. Cashmere sweaters have, many of them, discarded the round neck that hugged the base of the throat and branched out into small revers and collars. Fair Isle sweaters look well with corduroys and can be made from odd bits of wool; so can jumpers striped in many colours. Keep your accessories, the handkerchief on the head and the thick-soled shoes, to a plain colour, but choose a cheerful one. Russet brown is always good; so is a deep violet. For people who prefer not to wear slacks, there are Utility overalls—attractive flowery cottons, as gay as a mint, and incredibly cheap.

Odd jackets, impeccably tailored, are shown by Fortnum and Mason in tweeds, rayon linens

The boat-shaped shoulder yoke of Gorringe's chiffon blouse is outlined in scallops made of rolls of the material. A pink rose is pinned at the throat, and the full sleeves are ruched to a tight wrist-band. This blouse is charming in white, black, lime green, violet.

The soft-shouldered look appears on Miss Lucy's duck egg crepe frock, which is dotted with little white lacquered stars. This is the type of dress that will see you through most summer occasions in town and country, and it is worn with a hat in the same coloured straw with a flower posy in front of wallflowers and mimosa.





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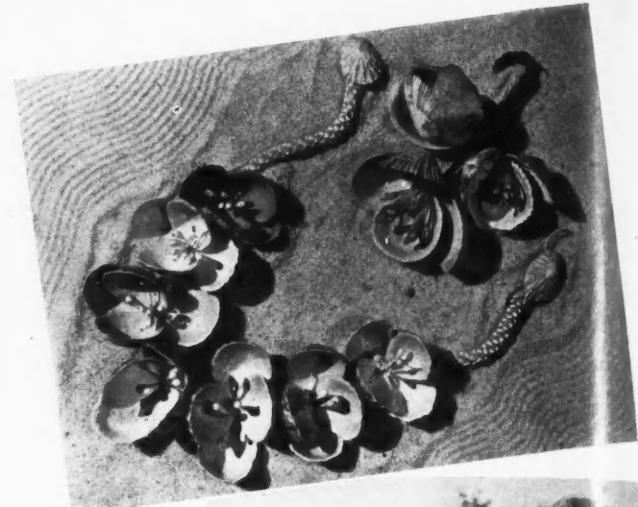
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The chintz-patterned cotton overall on the right is a Utility design costing 9s. 2d. and comes from William Whiteley's. It folds over in front, and is made in mixed bright flower shades.



and plain soft woollens. All shades of cherry red, deep blue, and green are useful, as they tone in with so many things. So are dog-tooth checked tweeds. Jackets are cut like cardigans

without collars, or like a hacking jacket. If they are less than 28 ins. in length they take 12 coupons. If unlined and not woollen, they are six coupons. They are a good investment, as they can be worn with so many different things. Checked jersey jackets are taut as a closely-woven tweed, particularly smart in russet and cream combinations. Debenham and Freebody have a number of these and large stocks of odd skirts pleated in every conceivable way before the Government placed a ban on most of it. There are sunray pleated skirts in fine, soft Shetland tweeds, plain coloured, with the pleats stitched so they never come out, and tapering away on the hip-line to nothing, which is most slimming. These skirts cost from £3 to £5.

The last of the summer cottons are being shown at Debenhams, too. Plaid ginghams in Indian reds and yellows are made with tight bodices and flared or gathered skirts. Some mix as many as eight or nine colours, making a rainbow effect; others are checked and overchecked in emerald green or scarlet on a black ground. These ginghams have plain coloured collars and belts.

Among the summer tailor-mades are checked and striped linen tweeds, tie silks, dice checked in black and white, and some dinner suits with tailored satin jackets and sunray pleated moss crépe skirts.

In the new collection of hats at Debenham and Freebody are felt boaters, to be worn straight on the forehead, tilted well forward, with veiling over the face and frosting out at the back. One in chamois yellow with black veiling and ribbon was charming, so was an oyster white with black. These hats have been designed expressly for black tailor-mades. After being in eclipse for nearly two years, black has reappeared at the top of the tailored clothes. Women by the score are wearing black tailor-mades. They have always been a recognised standby, always smart, can be worn almost anywhere any time. Added to this they are the best of all backgrounds for changing accessories.

P. JOYCE REYNOLDS

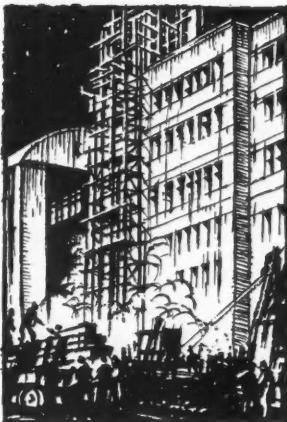
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"Tinned foods" need
Yorkshire Relish

Don't worry if the joint's "gone west,"
With other things just do your best.
YORKSHIRE RELISH helps you out—
The tastiest sauce without a doubt.
When cooking hash, or pie, or stew,
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For something tasty, nice and quick,
With meats and fish, serve Y.R. Thick.

NEW CONTROLLED PRICES :—
THIN - - - 10½d. and 1/6d.
THICK - - - 7d. and 10½d.
Supplies limited—use sparingly.

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Leeds, makers of famous sauces
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SHE'S LEFT COMFORT BEHIND

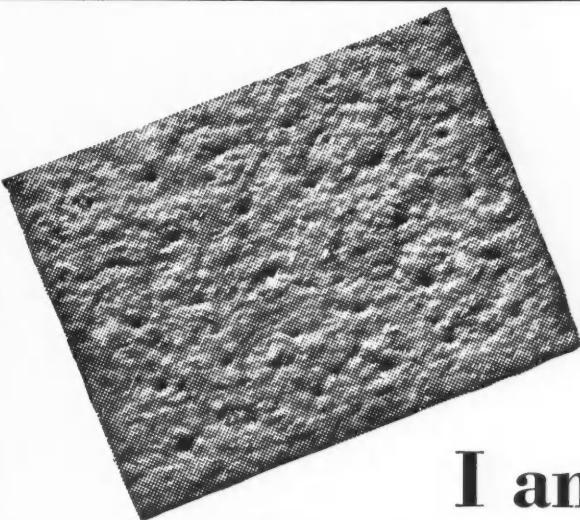


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